Gloria recalls 22 Erap-appointed envoys

STORY ON PAGE A2

Shipment of $11.6M to HK stopped at Naia

BY TJ BURGONIO

CUSTOMS authorities yesterday held the shipment to Hong Kong of $11.6 million in cash on suspicion that the money belongs to ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Customs officers stopped the loading of two vanloads of bank notes on Cathay Pacific Flight

SHIPMENT/ A4

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2001 ★ 52 PAGES 4 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 50 ₱15

Opposition to Abadia appointment mounts

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

OBJECTIONS to the appointment of retired Gen. Lisandro Abadia as National Security Adviser were raised by two leading members of the Senate yesterday.

But the ultimate put-down of Abadia came from his former comrades-in-arms.

OPPOSITION/ A16

Roxas back at trade; RM Jr. rejects DND

Señeres turns down labor due to Cabinet's 'bad image'

BY DONNA S. CUETO, CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA, CARLITO PABLO AND CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday reappointed Manuel "Mar" Roxas III as trade secretary, a post he quit shortly after the "Juetengate" scandal began shaking up the Estrada administration late last year.

The President also reappointed former Science and Technology Secretary Felimon Uriarte Jr. to his old post, and named Quezon City Rep. Michael Defensor as chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, and Teresita Quintos-Deles as chair of the National Anti-Poverty Commission.

The Macapagal administration earlier invited Roy Señeres, head of the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC), to take up the labor portfolio, but Señeres told the INQUIRER yesterday that he declined because he was "not at Edsa."

He also said he was "happy" in his current post.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. likewise declined the offer for him to head the Department of National Defense, and formally endorsed Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez for the post.

Magsaysay wrote Patricia Sto. Tomas, a member of Malacañang's search committee, to recommend Golez, a graduate of the US Naval Academy in Annapolis and former chair of the House committee on public order and security.

Orlando Mercado resigned as defense secretary on Thursday but the President said she had yet to decide on the matter.

Yesterday, however, Executive Secretary Renato de Villa hinted that Ms Macapagal might accept Mercado's resignation.

"She did not officially announce it, but we are made to understand that she'll be accepting it. We'll just have to wait for the announcement. I cannot preempt her," De Villa said.

Only 14 appointees were able to take their oath of office yesterday in Malacañang because the others, except for incoming National Se-

ROXAS/ A16

Macapagal defends the 'Gloria team'

BY DONNA S. CUETO

DEFENDING her choice of Cabinet officials, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she had appointed certain lawmakers because of their expertise and "substantive" work, and not because they were *trapos* (traditional politicians).

She cited as an example Sen. Raul Roco, whom she had named education secretary, saying he "is well known to all of us and is certainly not of the mold that is derisively called *trapo*.".

The President was reacting to the concern aired Thursday by the Pagbabago@Pilipinas, a multi-sectoral group that includes the Makati Business Club (MBC), that concessions to traditional politicians appeared to be dominating the selection of the Cabinet appointees.

"Up to yesterday (Thursday), the approval of my other Cabinet mem-

MACAPAGAL/ A16

Threats come from military intramurals –Angara

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA AND PHILIP C. TUBEZA

COUP threats against the Macapagal administration are not coming from ousted President Joseph Estrada but could be the result of "intramurals within the military," a former Estrada official said yesterday.

"If there's any coup, it could be (because of) intramurals . . . but definitely, definitely not coming from him (Estrada)," said former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara who spoke to reporters at the assembly of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino yesterday.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, an LDP member and a former general, said the coup threats were being fomented by "disgruntled quarters."

Two former military officials, allied with the new government, said they doubted that Estrada had the capability to mount destabilization plots even as business leaders in Mindanao urged the government to move swiftly to "nip in the bud" persistent rumors of a military coup as they could discourage foreign investors.

Gen. Jose Almonte, national security adviser of the former Ramos administration, said Estrada was not a "walking" security threat to the Macapagal administration.

THREATS/ A4

Bugs spook Malacañang press office

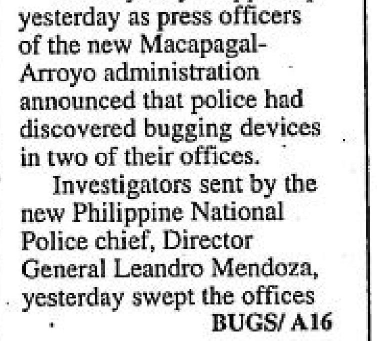
BY DONNA S. CUETO

WHO is bugging the new government and why?

This mystery cropped up yesterday as press officers of the new Macapagal-Arroyo administration announced that police had discovered bugging devices in two of their offices.

Investigators sent by the new Philippine National Police chief, Director General Leandro Mendoza, yesterday swept the offices

BUGS/ A16


ANG DAMING BUGS DITO!
ITO PA, O!
MAKAALIS NA NGA DITO AT BAKA MADAMAY PA TAYO!

THE STINKING garbage crisis may now be cast into the dustbin of history after President Macapagal signed into law the Solid Waste Management Act in Malacañang on Friday.

DENNIS SABANGAN

Garbage management act is 1st law signed by Gloria

BY AMY BAINBRIDGE

THE SOLID Waste Management Act yesterday became the first legislation that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed into law.

The Act, which Ms Macapagal described as a "safeguard for our environment," requires local government units to reduce their waste disposal by 25 percent within five years.

To achieve this target, LGUs must segregate, recycle, compost and re-use waste.

"I am told no other country in the world has adopted this integrated ecological approach to solid waste management," the President said.

Metro Manila's garbage has been a major problem for the President since she took office.

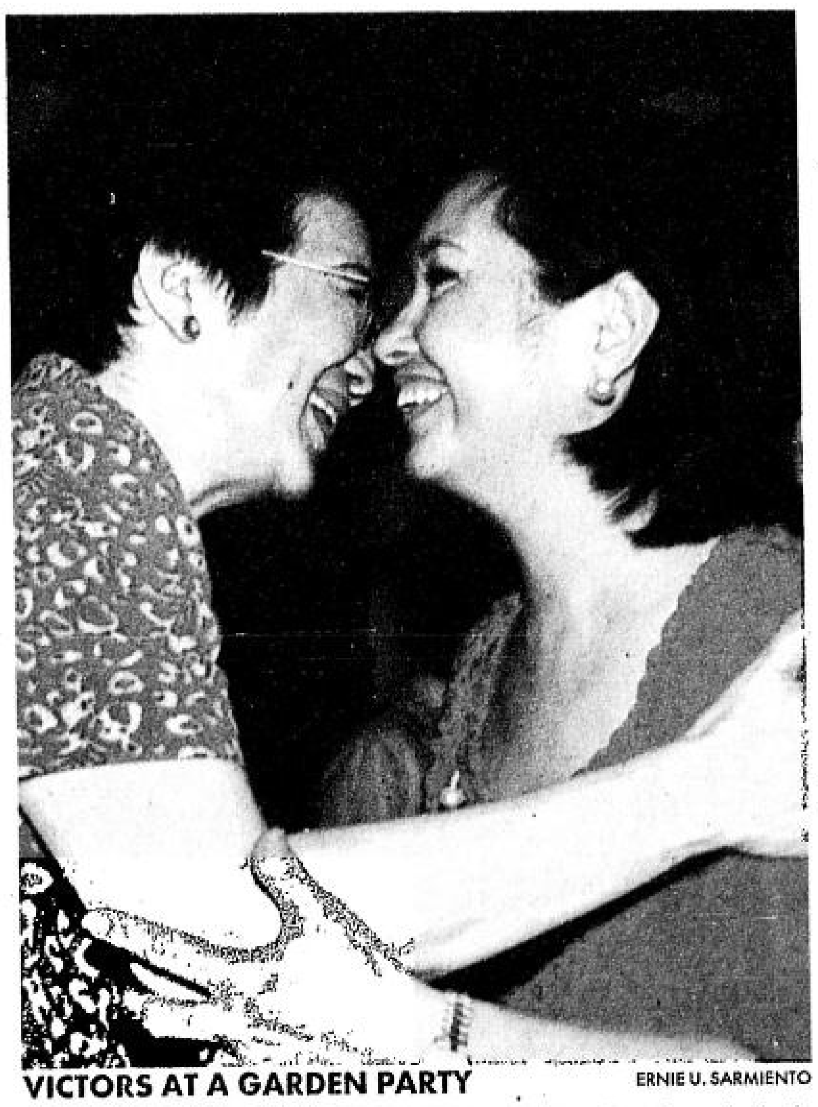
She said the tragedy at the Payatas dump in Quezon City last year wherein at least 217 squatters were killed showed that people were vulnerable to environmental disasters.

"When viewed in this light, environmental abuse becomes an issue of justice and equity," Ms Macapagal said.

She said the implementation of this law would alleviate the pressures on the capacity of the country's sanitary landfills.

Following the signing of the bill, Benjamin Abalos, chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority, said seven dumpsites in and

GARBAGE/ A16



VICTORS AT A GARDEN PARTY ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

President Macapagal is special guest at former President Cory Aquino's 68th birthday party on Thursday in Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

SENATORIAL RACE

It's Edsa Forces vs Erap allies

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA AND CYNTHIA D. BALANA

THE BATTLE between "Edsa Forces" and Erap allies will be replayed in the May 14 senatorial election as the new administration coalition and the new opposition named yesterday their possible senatorial candidates.

Rep. Joker Arroyo and TV personality Solita "Mareng Winnie" Monsod were among those nominated to the senatorial slate of the new administration.

Sen. Raul Roco, newly appointed education secretary, said his Aksyon Demokratiko, President Macapagal-Arroyo's party Kampi and Lakas-NUCD, Lito Osmeña's Promdi, Renato de Villa's Reporma and the Liberal Party would field 12 senatorial candidates under the catchy banner "Edsa Forces."

Roco said Aksyon nominated Arroyo, a member of the House prosecution panel in the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada, and Monsod, former director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, to the slate of the Edsa Forces.

Reelectionist Senators Franklin Drilon, Juan Flavier and Ramon Magsaysay Jr.; former Speaker Manuel Villar; Representatives Heherson Alvarez and Ernesto Herrera and former Bulacan Gov. Roberto "Obet" Pagdanganan were among those to be included in the slate, according to Roco.

The opposition, composed of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino

IT'S/ A4

Second FRONT PAGE

DAPAT LANG NA MAG-LINIS !

COSETENG

Gloria recalls 22 Erap envoys

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday recalled 22 of the 29 Filipino diplomats who had been appointed by her predecessor, ex-president Joseph Estrada.

This includes Philippine Ambassador to Mexico, Alice Lim-Coseteng, the 69-year-old mother of Estrada ally Sen. Nikki Coseteng.

The seven who were retained, although appointed or re-appointed by Estrada, had links to former presidents Fidel Ramos and Corazon Aquino.

A Department of Foreign Affairs official who requested anonymity said those kept at their posts were Romeo Arguelles, ambassador to Japan; Leonides Caday, Indonesia; Jose Brillantes, Malaysia; Masaranga Umpa, Nigeria; Francisco Benedicto, Canada; Francisco Atayde, Cambodia, and Cesar Bautista, Britain.

Arguelles, Caday, Brillantes and Umpa were Ramos appointees who were re-appointed by Estrada. Arguelles and Caday are retired career diplomats.

Benedicto, an Aquino appointee, was re-appointed by both Ramos and Estrada.

Atayde, a retired general, and Bautista were appointed by Estrada. The two, however, served in the Ramos administration—Atayde as general manager of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and Bautista as trade secretary.

Bautista was among seven "special envoys" named by Ms Macapagal earlier this week. He will be concurrent special envoy to Europe.

Estrada made a total of 29 diplomatic appointments—27 ambassadors and two consuls general.

According to the Foreign Service Act, majority of the 59 ambassadorships should be given to career officers.

Foreign service officers reportedly complained, albeit silently, when Estrada even appointed consul generals—Amado Cortez in San Francisco, California, and Pedro Firmalino in Osaka, Japan.

The ambassadorial posts left vacant by the Macapagal recall are those in the United States, Spain, Italy, Papua New Guinea, the Vatican, Thailand, Chile, Kuwait, the Czech Republic, Oman, Argentina, Brunei, Qatar, Palau, Iraq, Pakistan, Mexico and Laos.

The deputy chiefs of mission at these posts will take over until the appointment of their respective ambassadors.

Ambassador Coseteng steps down after only one year at her posting. Hers was one of the more controversial appointments of Estrada after her qualifications and her age were questioned. Intense lobbying with Estrada by her daughter, Senator Coseteng, however, eventually won her the appointment.

Ernesto Maceda, who was Estrada's spokesman for the impeachment trial, resigned as ambassador to Washington on Jan. 19, hours after Estrada lost the support of the military, police and most of his Cabinet following a popular revolt.

In the case of Cortez, the DFA had been asking Estrada to recall the former movie actor since Nov. 21 last year citing his serious illnesses that prevented him from carrying out his duties.

The ousted president, a movie actor himself, did not act on the DFA recommendation.

Last December, Estrada named former Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano to replace Caday, but the appointment did not push through.

Caday is still recovering from injuries he sustained in the bomb attack on his Jakarta residence last August.

The Philippines has a total of 59 embassies abroad and 19 consulates and one special mission in Taiwan.

Pro-Erap protest in Davao fizzles out

DAVAO CITY—Despite their dwindling number, supporters of ousted president Joseph Estrada just won't give up.

Expecting to gather tens of thousands of people at a pro-Erap rally at Rizal Park here, organizers saw only some 200 people in attendance.

But fight on they will.

"No retreat, no surrender. We will go on with our fight until President Joseph Ejercito Estrada is re-installed," said Richard Dexter Welborn, chair of Tingog Kabataang Mindanao which organized the rally.

On Thursday, about 1,000 Estrada supporters in the city joined the rally but only a handful stayed for the vigil. Yesterday, only 200, mostly vendors and farmers from the city's outskirts, remained.

Welborn said they expect about 20,000 people from North Cotabato, South Cotabato, Davao Oriental and the cities of General Santos and Kidapawan to join the rally today.

He said a contingent of some 10,000 supporters from the towns of Pikit, Aleosan and others in North Cotabato was stopped by police on a highway in M'lang, North Cotabato.

Welborn said the group was marching from Pikit to Rizal Park here.

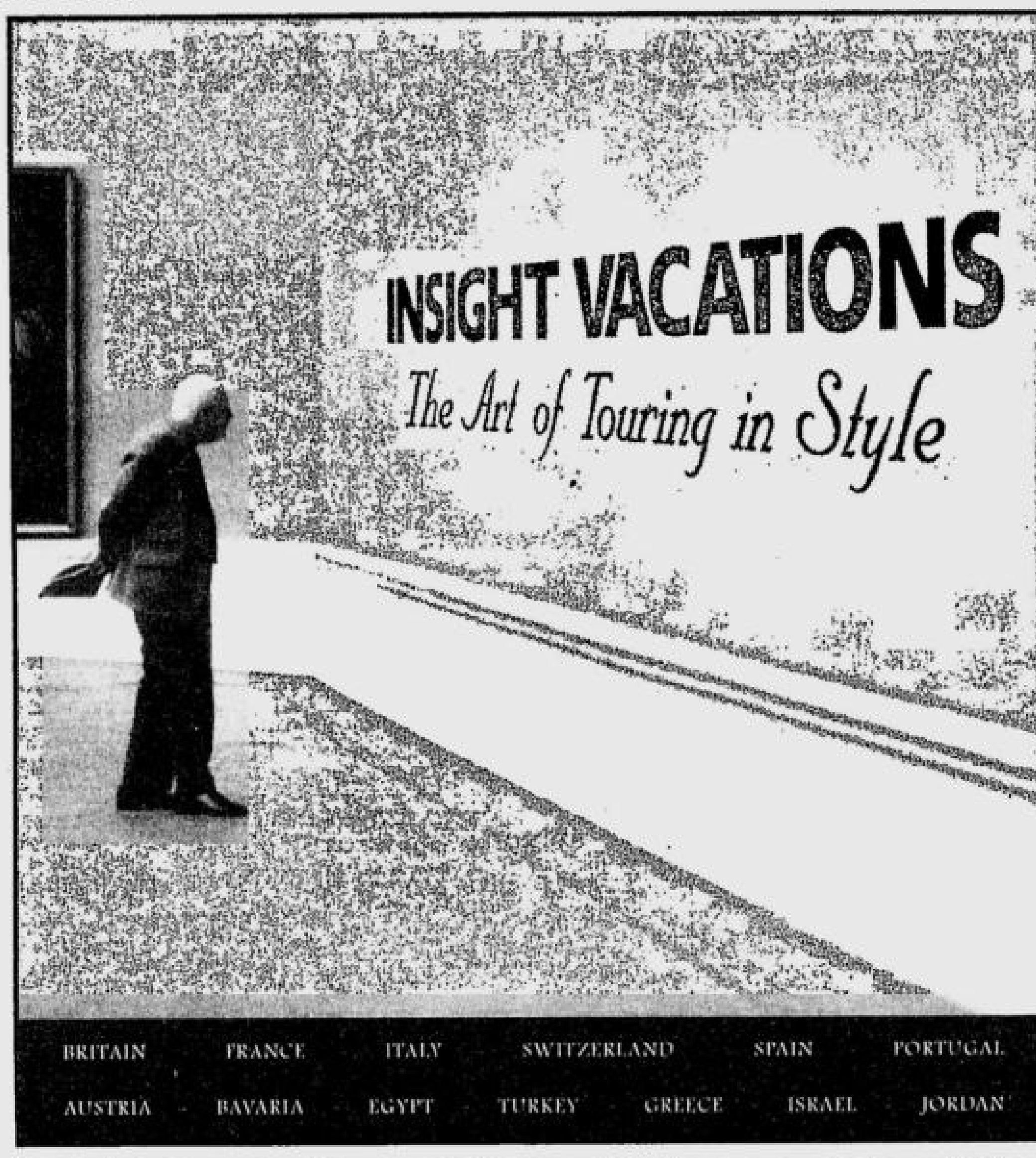
But Chief Insp. Eduardo Marquez, operations chief of the North Cotabato police command, said there were no mass gatherings in any North Cotabato towns.

"*Hindi po totoo iyan. Wala pong nagmamartsa o nagrarally rito.* Peaceful *po tayo rito,*" Marquez told the INQUIRER over the telephone. ("That's not true. There is no one marching or holding rallies here. It is peaceful here.")

Welborn claimed another 2,000 Estrada supporters from General Santos City and 3,000 from Davao del Norte could not leave their localities because they did not have money for transportation.

"We are appealing to all Estrada supporters to send us material and financial support so we could sustain our people power," Welborn said.

Leaders at yesterday's rally also called for Mindanao's secession from the country and the establishment of an independent Mindanao government with Estrada as president. ***Jowel Canuday, Ayan Mellejor, Ellen Red, PDI Mindanao Bureau***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FRANCISCO S. TATAD

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CATANDUNGANONS AGAINST HYPOCRISY AND OPPORTUNISM

ADVT.

SLOW COUNT

48 days for Senate winners

IT WILL be a slow count in the May 14 elections after all.

Officials of the Commission on Elections yesterday said the poll body will resort to manual counting in all precincts in the May elections after the bidding for the purchase of counting machines hit a snag.

Earlier, the Comelec had ruled out an option to lease 1,800 counting machines from the city of Toronto, Canada, due to budgetary and time constraints.

Mike Aguam, Comelec executive director, said even the 68 counting machines used in the past two elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao will not be used this time. He did not say why.

"Everything will be done manually," Aguam told the weekly Ugnayan forum at the Rembrandt Hotel yesterday.

He said that because of this, the election results will take days to consolidate.

Municipal and city level results would be known in seven days, while provincial results would be known in 37 days at the latest, he said. The results of national elections for the 12 Senate seats could be known in 48 days, he added.

The Comelec was pursuing a project to automate the election process—from the counting of votes to the consolidation of results in all levels—when the plan hit a snag due to delays in the technical evaluation of the systems offered by bidders.

Comelec chair Harriet Demetriou decided to shelve the project, called the Automated Counting and Consolidation of Results System (Accors), pending the resolution of the technical issues, primarily with regard to price and evaluation reports which were unsigned.

The Accors project was supposed to greatly speed up the counting and consolidation process, from the usual months to a matter of hours.

It required the use of computer-driven counting machines and a network-based data transmission system for faster consolidation of results in the municipal, provincial and national levels.

The National Movement for Free Elections had earlier pushed for the automation of elections in the entire country to stamp out poll fraud, which attends practically every election in the Philippines.

NPA offers to release 2 captives: Just ask . . .

By Norman Bordadora

THE NEW People's Army yesterday offered to immediately release longtime captives Army Maj. Noel Buan and police Chief Insp. Abelardo Martin if the government would ask for it.

NPA spokesperson Gregorio Rosal, alias Ka Roger, said, "If (President) Macapagal-Arroyo is interested in the release of their personnel, Martin and Buan, the revolutionary movement is ready to talk with the emissaries of the government and receive and act positively on a formal request for the prisoners' release."

He said that with the removal of Estrada and his administration's "militarist" policy, the fate of the captured officers is now in the hands of Ms Macapagal.

"In response to the request of the Humanitarian and Peace Mission, the NDFP issued on Feb. 11, 2000 the "Order to Release Police Chief Inspector Abelardo Martin," Rosal said.

"(But) the Estrada government's response was contrary to this humanitarian offer," he added.

"Instead of ordering a ceasefire to give way to the release of the prisoners, Gen. Angelo Reyes and Estrada ordered the deployment of 15 AFP battalions in Southern Tagalog to launch a destructive military rescue operation," Rosal said.

"Not even the twice-declared bogus suspension of offensive military operations (Soma) could cover this up," he said.

"For the prisoners to be released, Macapagal must renounce Estrada and General Reyes' militarist outlook. She has to understand that any military rescue operation will fail just as Estrada and Reyes failed," he said.

Buan has been charged before the "people's court" with espionage and war crimes. Martin is also facing charges in Dolores, Quezon, where he once was PNP chief. They were abducted separately but have been held together since, some one and a half years ago.

NEWSBRIEFS

Roco's blacklist

EVEN before he could sit as education secretary, the office of Sen. Raul Roco has been deluged with calls from textbook suppliers who are out to grab a piece of the multi-billion textbook budget. Roco said that when he looked at the names of people who were seeking appointments to see him, he found that most of them are textbook suppliers. "I asked my staff to make a list of these callers so that I could have them blacklisted," Roco told reporters.

Juliet Javellana

'Airplane accounts' denied

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice will take the lead in investigating the so-called "airplane" accounts of ousted President Joseph Estrada, which were bared recently by a former prosecutor in the latter's impeachment trial. This came about as a former Palace official speaking for the ousted President denied that he owned the numbered accounts, saying these were part of the "continuing acts of harassment and undue prosecution" by his enemies. The source said Mr. Estrada dared Rep. Joker Arroyo to come out with the evidence about the "airplane accounts." "There's no such thing," the source quoted the President as saying.

Donna S. Cueto

Ombudsman cleanup urged

THE CASES against former President Estrada can prosper if President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo cleans up the Office of the Ombudsman, a private prosecutor who helped in the impeachment case said yesterday. The remark came a day after Makati Rep. Joker Arroyo announced that pieces of evidence against President Estrada that were uncovered during the impeachment trial would be turned over to the group of private prosecutors who helped them. "The challenge of private prosecutors to the new government is for it to find a way to clean up the constitutional graft-buster of the country," the prosecutor, who requested anonymity, said. "Because if the very crime-buster of the country, the constitutional officer is in itself perceived to be graft-ridden, how do you expect the campaign against graft and corruption to be successful?" he asked.

Martin P. Marfil

Lies, lies, lies, says Desierto

LIES, lies, lies. Thus said Ombudsman Aniano Desierto as he slammed the Free Legal Assistance Group (Flag) yesterday for questioning his competence to prosecute former President Estrada, saying its members were merely spreading "lies" to discredit him. In an interview, Desierto said Flag lawyers should help him investigate the deposed president instead of discrediting the proceedings at the Ombudsman. He called on "all who wanted the truth to emerge during the proceedings before his office to positively contribute to that cause rather than seek, without basis, to discredit the same proceedings."

Michael Lim Ubac

ATO 'takeover' foiled

THE MAD scramble for vacant posts in the government continues. A seasoned pilot yesterday showed up at the Air Transportation Office, claiming that he has been appointed by the group of former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco to head the agency. But Capt. Fredelito O. Juane was not taken seriously after Cojuangco himself called the ATO to deny Juane's claim. Juane, 57, walked into the ATO office on Airport Road in Pasay as early as 8 a.m. and sought an audience with outgoing ATO chief, Capt. Jacinto Ortega Jr. More than an hour later, Cojuangco, brother of former President Corazon Aquino, called Ortega to ignore Juane. "He's a friend of mine but I tell you I never sent him to the ATO," he said in a phone interview. "He (Juane) must have talked to somebody else. I guess he's a little touched in the head."

TJ Burgonio

Inquirer man's pa dies

ARMANDO Nuñez Nocum, father of the INQUIRER Malacañang reporter Armand Dean Nocum, died of a heart attack in Zamboanga City on Jan. 25, 2001. He was 55. He is survived by wife, Aida Natividad, and children Armand Dean, Allan Jude, Adonis Jose and Aireen Gail. His remains lie in state at the La Merced Funeral Homes in Zamboanga City. Interment will be on Jan. 30 at the Manicahan cemetery.

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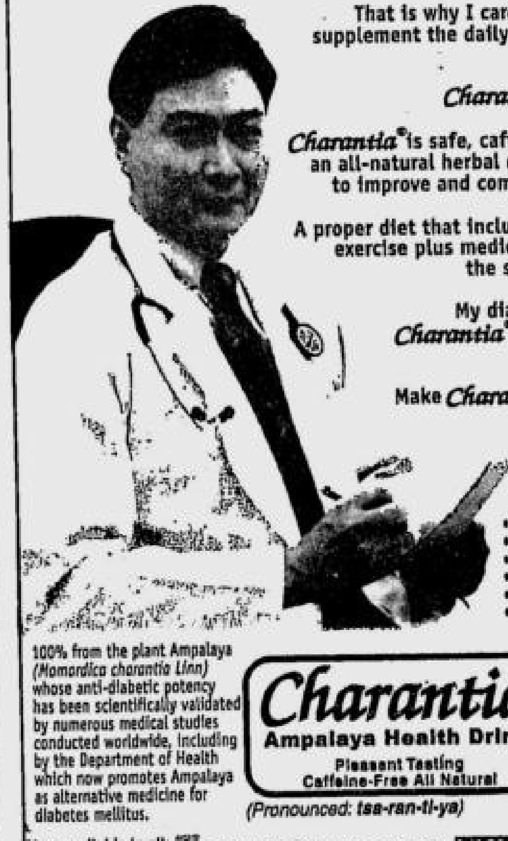

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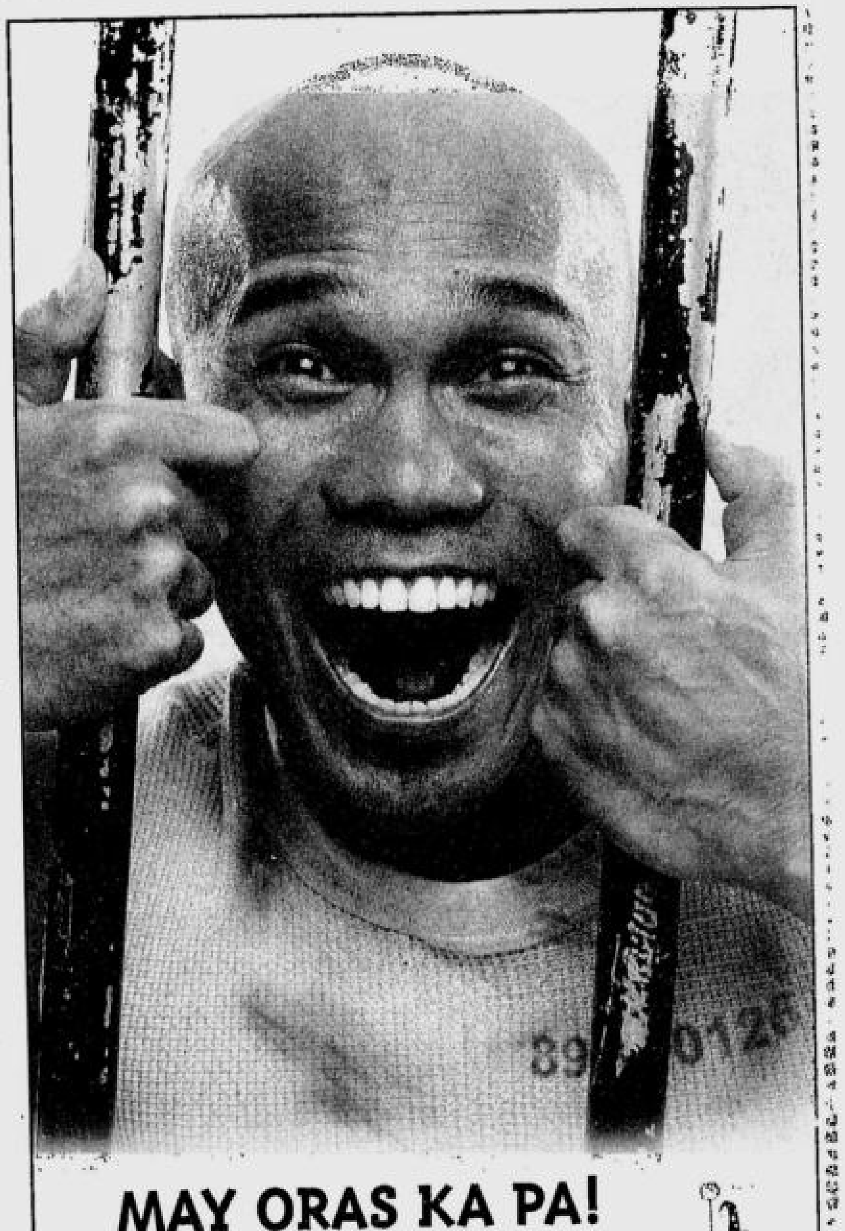

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Threats come from military intramural

(From page A1)

A former associate of Estrada, Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, belittled the capability of pro-Estrada forces to grab power but warned that Estrada can be "quite vindictive" and has quite a lot of money.

Biazon said coup rumors persist because of the way President Macapagal was installed through people power which represented many parties and interests, among them, the military, the leftists, the progressives, the capitalists and labor.

The immediate challenge for Ms Macapagal, he said, was how to harmonize these interests which are "squabbling and bickering" for positions in the new government.

In the case of the military, Biazon said the President should enforce the chain of command and order them to "shut up."

Biazon said the people should also stop glamorizing the military by giving it too much credit for the success of Edsa II.

"I've said this before that if you give soldiers political power, it would be difficult to put them back in the barracks," Biazon said.

Under the gun?

"That's exactly what happened in People Power I and II. I do hope that the presidency of President Arroyo is not a presidency under the gun."

Almonte said he did not believe Estrada poses a threat because the people had just rejected him.

"I don't think he can gather any force or any following to undertake certain political actions that may disturb the new stability," Almonte said at a gathering of anti-Estrada activists, belonging to the Philippine Consultative Assembly at the Club Filipino yesterday.

"A coup d'etat will never succeed unless it has the support of the people. But the people have just spoken. Under the circumstances, I cannot possibly imagine anyone thinking about mounting a coup will prosper," Almonte said.

Biazon said "Estrada should cease to be a political issue." He said Estrada's fate should be left to the courts since the government has already filed plunder charges against him and his cronies.

He said the political issue now is not what happens to Estrada but how the country can bounce back from the economic mess that he left.

Sourgraping

Biazon said President Macapagal should address the issue of some "talkative" military men by ordering Lt. Gen. Edgardo Espinosa to stop sourgraping so as not to "prolong this political game."

On Wednesday, Espinosa had claimed to be at the head of a breakaway military group ready to support the assembled Edsa people power forces but was beaten to the draw by the last-minute withdrawal of support by Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes.

He said it was not normal for a three-star general like Espinosa to be openly attacking his superiors, Reyes and Mercado, because he is still under their chain of command.

"He (Espinosa) should shut up," Biazon said. "The problem with General Espinosa is he's being used by political parties within the broad political spectrum."

Biazon said he was saddened by Espinosa's actions as these have somehow diminished the peacekeeping role of the military.

"I've never agreed to the military playing a role in people's uprisings. But since it happened already, then the next thing to do is let's relegate them to the back burner."

Angara, who said he last talked with Estrada on Thursday night, said anti-Estrada quarters should stop harassing the ousted president by linking him to possible coup plots.

"Personally I would not ask him if he's involved because I know that he would not do that and he did not do it," Angara said.

Asked if Estrada had come to accept his fate, Angara said he had no way of telling.

But he said the deposed president looked more relaxed and calm when he last talked to him.

Berroya, who spoke at the Club Filipino forum, said Estrada had been reported as having been hosting parties since he was ousted.

"But even if he is partying, I know he is sad. I know that he won't be able to accept easily what happened to him," he said.

"To tell you the truth, his friends destroyed him," he added.

Berroya warned that Estrada does not easily forget those who cross him.

"I don't trust him. If he tried to have me killed then, I don't know what he might do now," he said.

He said Estrada has a lot of money which he might use to get back at his enemies.

"I had hoped that this thing would stop. He should already take the lessons from what happened to him," he said.

Grave implications

In Davao City, Mindanao Business Council chair Joji Ilagan-Bian said the Macapagal administration should move to "douse cold water" on the coup rumors.

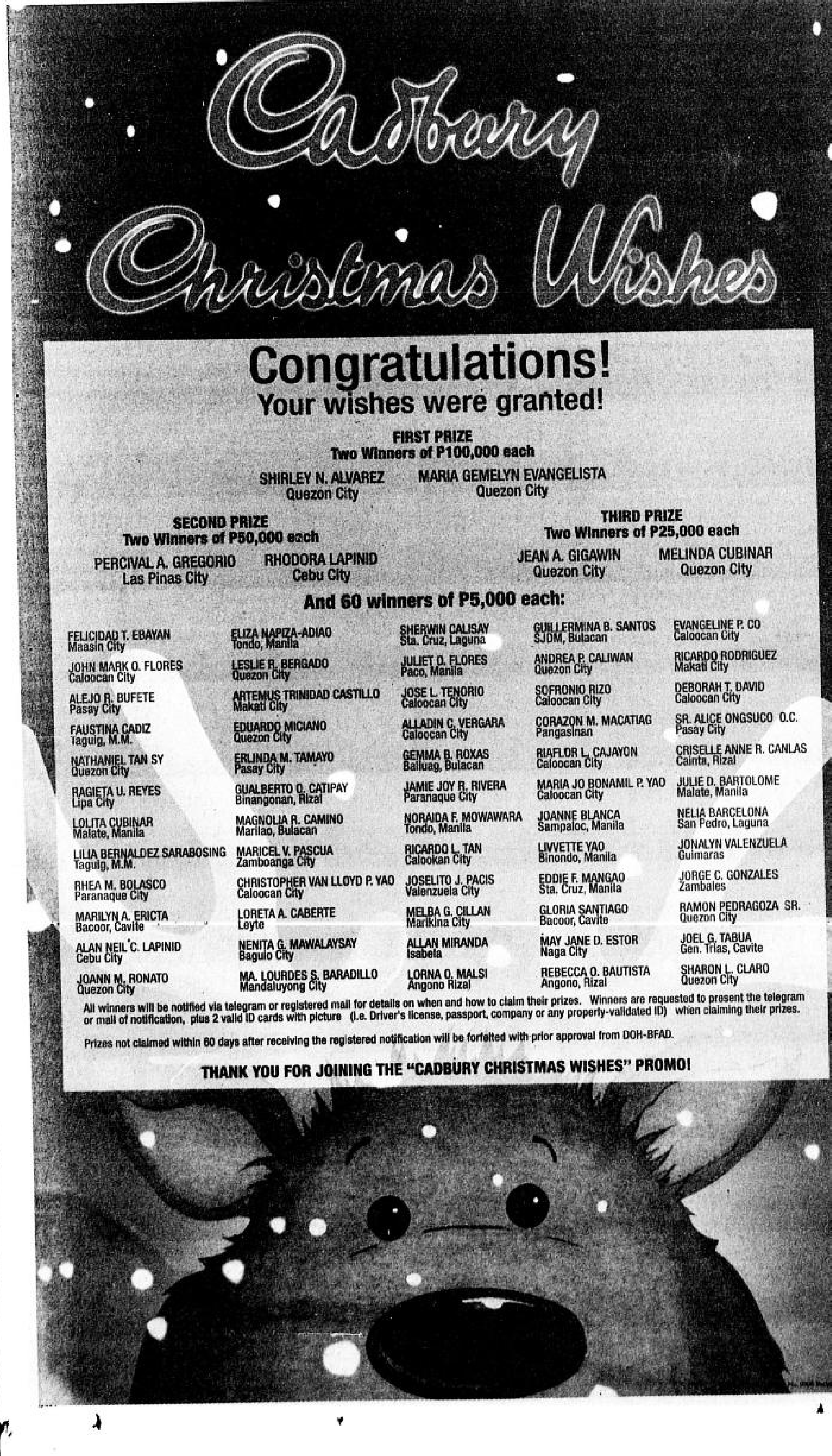
"The gains won by the people in the People Power II uprising will immediately wither away if we allow these coup talks to persist," Bian said.

Bian said the country's political and economic situation is still very fragile and sensitive as the new administration is still consolidating.

"The Macapagal-Arroyo administration is still standing on a volatile ground. A little crack in the military will have grave implications in our economic recovery efforts," Bian said.

Bian noted that the public as well as the international community is still sensitive to political developments in the country.

"We appeal to the military to respect the will of the people. We should not destroy the confidence shown by investors and other sectors in the international community after the people power uprising," Bian said. *With a report from Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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It's Edsa Forces versus Erap allies

(From page 1)

(LDP) and the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) which supported Estrada, is also trying to come up with a senatorial slate despite fears that the "Edsa Forces" will rout its slate in the coming elections.

The LDP nominated 17 senatorial candidates during its National Leaders' Assembly at the Manila Hotel.

The LDP nominees included Arroyo, Drilon, Magsaysay Jr. and Sergio Osmeña III who are with the anti-Estrada forces.

Other nominees are LDP president Edgardo Angara, the executive secretary of Estrada before his ouster; Representatives Agapito "Butz" Aquino, Lou Antonino, Carlos Padilla and Allen Quimpo; former Rep. Mike Romero; Muslim leader Ombra Tamano, former Press Secretary Ricardo "Dong" Puno and former Presidential Adviser on Children Affairs Jamby Madrigal.

Puno and Madrigal were sworn in as LDP members yesterday.

Guest candidates

Besides Arroyo and Magsaysay, the LDP guest candidates include Senators Juan Ponce Enrile (Independent), Miriam Defensor-Santiago (People's Reform Party) and Gregorio Honasan (Independent).

Newscaster Noli de Castro was also nominated to the LDP slate although it was not clear whether he would join the party.

Aquino, LDP secretary general, said the party's National Executive Council would later trim the list of prospective candidates from 17 to 12.

Drilon thanked the LDP but declined the nomination.

"Let me state, however, that having sought the resignation of then President Joseph Estrada, I cannot in conscience accept the idea of sharing in the same platform with the candidates who are supportive of the past administration," Drilon said.

Drilon, a member of the LDP bloc, bolted the Lapian ng Masang Pilipino (LAMP) coalition on Nov. 3. He was promptly replaced as Senate President.

In his speech, Angara expressed confidence that the LDP would remain "the party of the future" despite recent political developments that forced it to bolt LAMP.

LAMP was composed of LDP, the Partido ng Masang Pilipino of Estrada and NPC of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

LAMP is not registered with the Commission on Elections as a political party since it was merely a political coalition.

Cup of despair

The recent development Angara was referring was the People Power II at Edsa, which ousted Estrada and diminished the significance of the LAMP coalition.

"We begin a new chapter in our country's colorful history with a choice. We have, not a cup of despair, but a chalice of opportunity," he said.

Angara also said LDP would play its role responsibly and constructively—whether in active opposition or in critical cooperation.

For his part, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, who is identified with the anti-Estrada forces, proposed that LDP adopt a policy of "critical collaboration" with the government without losing its role as the new voice of the opposition.

"This means what we give our cooperation with the government in pursuing urgent and important policies and programs but we should not abandon our role as fiscalizer," Biazon said.

"I think that by taking a critical cooperation stance, we will maintain the unity of LDP," he said.

Biazon was referring to the case of former Laguna Gov. Joey Lina who is now the interior secretary.

Lina played a key role in People Power II at Edsa despite his being with the LDP.

The LDP has yet to decide on the cases of party members now serving in the Macapagal administration, according to Angara.

Puno, who was described by Angara as the "fresh blood" that will re-energize LDP, said he was honored to join the party.

"LDP shines bright for its principles, consistency and true faith in the country, the people and their destiny," Puno said.

Shipment of $11.6M to HK stopped at Naia

(From page A1)

CX 918 bound for Hong Kong, which took off around 5:30 p.m. There were unconfirmed reports that this was the last of a series of shipments of dollar notes following the fall of Estrada on Saturday.

Newly appointed Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva ordered the holding of the shipment on the instruction of Malacañang, mediamen learned.

Malacañang had been alerted by lawyer Homobono Adaza and Lauro Vizconde, vice chair of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, on the shipment of millions of dollars to Hong Kong via Naia for the past few days.

Customs officials, however, could not say if the shipment violated the country's banking laws.

Of the total amount, $7.3 million came from the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank. The rest of the amount, $4.3 million, came from the Bank of America. Both banks have offices in Makati City, according to the airway bill.

HSBC's listed address is The Enterprise Center on 6766 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas while the Bank of America's is the Brink's Inc., 27th floor, Philam Life Tower, Paseo de Roxas.

The first amount was consigned to HSBC in Hong Kong with address at Rm. 226, 2nd Floor, North Office Blk., Super Terminal, Hong Kong International Airport, Hong Kong.

These were stuffed in 17 sealed bags, weighing a total of 194 kg.

The second amount was consigned to Brink's Hong Kong Ltd., with address at Massmutual Tower, 38 Gloucester Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

These were placed inside five sealed bags, weighing a total of 94 kg.

The money was transported by two armored vans from the two banks to the airport around 4 p.m. These were parked in Bay 6.

But airport officials said there was nothing unusual about the shipment.

"They bring money to the airport for loading into commercial airlines almost every day. It's a regular thing," an airport official said.

Following the hold order, the vans were impounded at the Bureau of Customs' warehouse. These were not yet opened as of press time pending the arrival of representatives from the two banks.

In a letter to the customs bureau, Lam Ho Cheung, AVP for Banknotes of HSBC, and Charles Evans, authorized courier, said their shipment does not require any export permit under a central bank circular.

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Sen. Drilon has vision and foresight together with then Sen. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, he authored the " Revised Non-Stock Savings and Loan Association Act of 1997", which greatly helped the common workers and employees in their campaign for financial stability thru collective assistance.

With his experience in both the executive and legislative branches of government, his exposure in various government agencies, and his excellent academic background, we believe Sen. Drilon will be a great asset to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's administration as its Vice-President.

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Payback time for Mimosa owner

By Michael Ubac

FORMER tourism secretary Jose Antonio U. Gonzales yesterday filed plunder and graft charges with the Office of the Ombudsman against deposed president Joseph Estrada and a number of his Cabinet officials in connection with the takeover of the Mimosa Leisure Estate in Clark Field in 1999.

Gonzales, a principal stockholder of the Mondragon Leisure and Resorts Corp., which operated the Mimosa Regency Casino, accused Estrada and his officials with complicity in the alleged "gestapo-like" takeover of Mimosa.

Aside from Estrada, others named as respondents were Robert Aventajado, former flagship projects secretary; Alice Reyes, former chair and CEO of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor); Reynaldo Tenorio, former president and CEO of Pagcor; Rufo Colayco and Sergio Naguiat Jr., both former presidents and CEOs of the Clark Development Corp. (CDC);

Rogelio Singson, chair of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority and CEO of CDC; Joshue Camba Jr., president of the New Millennium Investment Corp.; a certain Venecio Ramos and several John and Jane Does.

In a 47-page complaint-affidavit, Gonzales said the "unfolding of recent events proved the existence of a grand conspiracy involving no less than Estrada and his friends and cronies, together with the CDC and Pagcor, to squeeze the Mondragon Group of Companies out of the Mimosa Leisure Estate."

Gonzales said the grand conspiracy led to the attempted takeover of Mimosa by "the combined forces of the PNP, CDC and Pagcor" on Dec. 14, 1998.

This in turn resulted in the closure of the Mimosa Regency Casino "and the violent takeover of the entire Mimosa Leisure Estate almost a year later on Dec. 4, 1999 by CDC's armed personnel and PNP Special Action Forces."

Rights victims hopeful

By B. Rivera

HUMAN rights victims of the Marcos dictatorship are inching closer to securing a partial compensation from a $35-million account believed to be owned by the Marcoses.

Lawyer Rod Domingo Jr., counsel for the 9,539 claimants, said he had gathered "substantive documentary evidence" to prove that the Marcoses owned the $35-million Arelma assets which Merrill Lynch Inc. transferred to the Hawaii District Court last year.

He made the revelation even as the newly installed administration of President Macapagal has yet to appoint new officials of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

The Philippine government, represented by the PCGG, is also claiming ownership of the Marcos account, which was "uncovered" by the PCGG last year.

"We are confident that we will get this within the year," Domingo told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "We have substantive documentary evidence already, which we will present to the US Court."

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The real heroes

EDITORIAL

THE PEOPLE are being left behind again. Just a week after people power evicted President Joseph Estrada, claims have proliferated over credits for the transfer of power to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and a scramble by lobby groups for key positions of the new administration has taken place.

As the people who marched in the streets all over the country to demand the resignation of Estrada last week watch the formation of the Cabinet, they are disappointed that there are not many new faces representing civil society sectors. The distribution of Cabinet portfolios is a measure of the diversity of sectoral representation and how rewards are being distributed. Very conspicuous is the absence of the younger people in the Cabinet, younger than the Baby Boomer generation to which the President belongs.

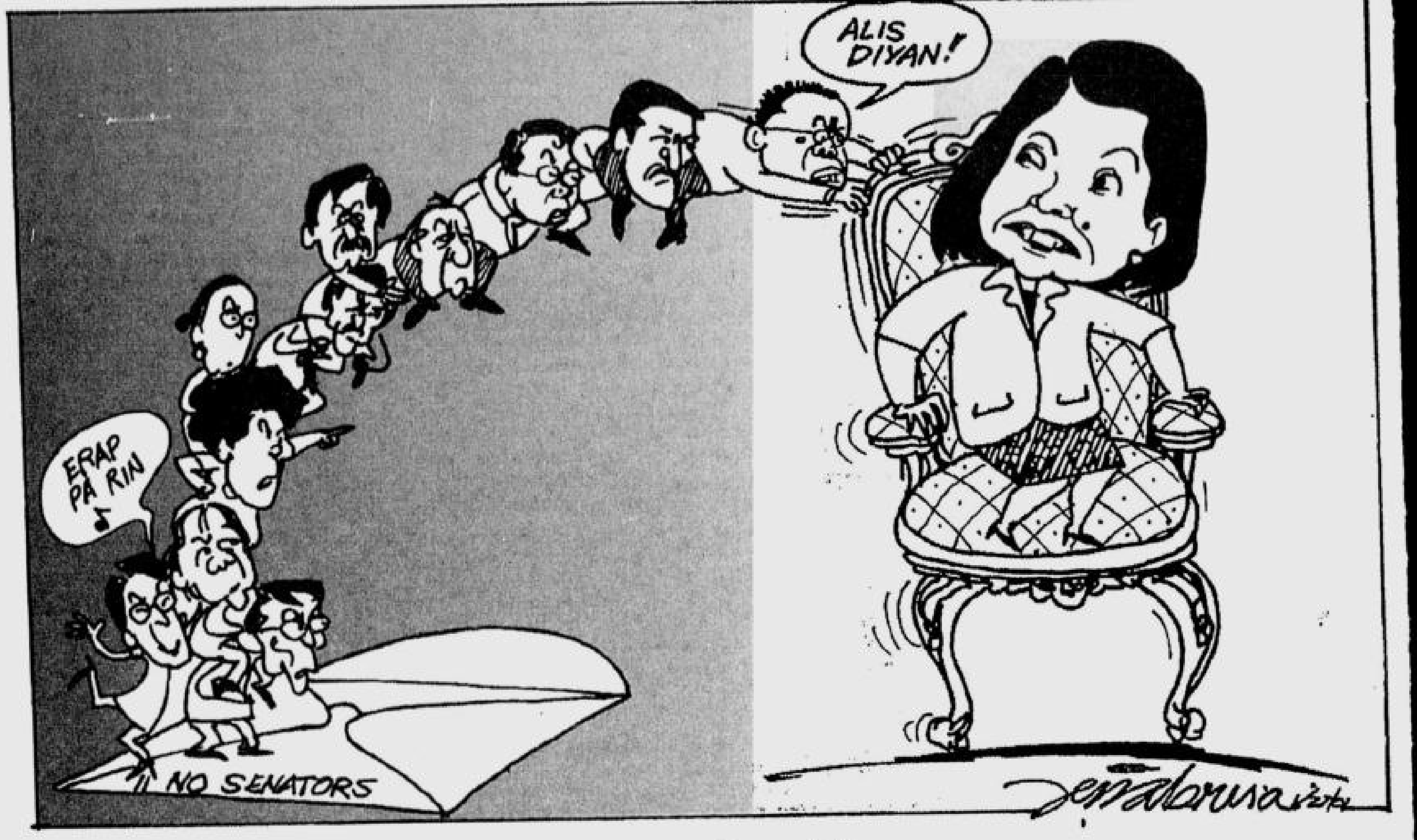
Edsa 2 gained momentum from the entry of the students in the mass protest. They provided the muscle and the dynamism to people power. What's significant about People Power 2 was that the students had a reawakening that revived student activism in a mass movement for change. Student councils all over the country were among the first groups to spearhead the call for Estrada's resignation after Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson exploded his bombshell about Estrada's bribe-taking from *jueteng* and kickbacks from tobacco excise taxes. Perhaps, the appointment of Sen. Raul Roco as education secretary is a concession to the young or a recognition of the importance of the successor generation in shaping the new politics not denominated by traditional patronage politics.

Although civil society is represented in the Cabinet by the likes of Vicky Garchitorena, who is the new Presidential Management Staff secretary (the gatekeeper of the Cabinet agenda), and Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, the new social welfare secretary, some of the other appointees smack of rewards to traditional politicians who backed the Estrada Resign movement. Gov. Joey Lina of Laguna at the Department of Interior and Local Government is one such tradpol. The military, whose defection to Ms Macapagal was pivotal to the collapse of the Estrada administration got a fair share of representation, among them Gen. Renato de Villa as executive secretary, Gen. Lisandro Abadia as national security adviser, and Philippine National Police Director Reynaldo Wycoco as National Bureau of Investigation director. The Muslims have a representation in the Cabinet with the appointment of Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong as public works secretary.

With still many Cabinet posts unfilled, sectoral groups are already complaining that the military, for example, is overrepresented. The Makati Business Club, which played a key role in galvanizing the business community's withdrawal of support from Estrada, says "the (Cabinet) choices have mostly been political concessions, and not based on the prospects' capability to handle their posts." There are also complaints that many of the appointments did not pass through rigorous screening by the presidential search committee. Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado, for example, resigned from the Cabinet in protest against Abadia's appointment because he was not comfortable with Abadia's involvement in alleged irregularities concerning the handling of military pension funds.

It is too early for the Macapagal administration to be rocked by squabbles over appointments. There will be no scarcity of lobby groups jostling for a place in the center of decision-making. But what's more disconcerting is the early debate over who were the pivotal players in the collapse of the Estrada administration. Within the military itself, the role of Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes, in withdrawing the military's support from Estrada is being questioned by a faction which claims that Reyes acted only after learning of a plan by some of his subordinates to withdraw their support a day after the general staff crossed over to Edsa on Jan. 20.

Without minimizing the role of the military, or of Kompil 2, or other groups which went to Edsa, it must never be forgotten that the real dynamo of People Power 2 were the people themselves who spontaneously went to the streets, flaming with rage after Estrada's allies in the Senate scuttled the impeachment process. Everyone, including the military, the police, and Estrada and his allies, watched the swell of people power in the streets. When it was clear that the protest movement was beyond control, everyone jumped into the bandwagon, and Estrada had to bow to the people's will.



Beating a dead horse

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE PRO-ERAP forces do not want to let go. Their leader has been ousted but they say he's still the President. Mr. Estrada has said so himself in another one of his silly pronouncements. He says he just stepped down for a while but is ready to resume his duties.

One remembers his desperate suggestion the other Friday that Congress call a snap election in which he generously promised not to run. It was hooted out at Edsa by even freshman law students. Whoever advised him to make such a foolish statement belongs to a padded cell, not the Philippine bar.

The other justification they invoke is Art. VII, Sec. 11 of the Constitution providing for the temporary replacement of the President when he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Erap says he was unable to do this when he left Malacañang last Saturday. But now he can resume his presidency.

That provision applies when the Cabinet declares the physical or mental inability of the President to continue in office. The Vice President takes over as acting President until the President declares that no inability exists. If the Cabinet disagrees, Congress can sustain it by a two-thirds vote of both Houses, voting separately.

When Estrada stepped down that Saturday, his Cabinet was no longer existing. There was no written declaration of his inability to continue discharging his powers and duties. Congress was not officially informed of any conflict with his few remaining department heads. It also did not have the opportunity to resolve such conflict, assuming there was any. Erap appeared perfectly normal on that day.

The only problem was that he had lost the authority to govern. Even if he was still in the Palace, he was no longer able to demand obedience to his orders. His Cabinet had practically disintegrated with the resignation of most of its members. The military and police hierarchy had withdrawn its support from him. Estrada was all alone in his rejected government.

Most important of all, the hundreds of thousands of citizens massed at Edsa were demanding his resignation. It was another demonstration of people power to drag down another rascal. The people were directly exercising the power of removal that the senators could not exercise at the impeachment trial. Edsa was recalling a delegated power that the Senate would not assert.

The move was unconventional but it was not unconstitutional. The power to remove the President is vested in the Senate, but only where he is impeached and convicted after trial. The trial of Estrada was aborted because of the manipulations of his minions that vitiated the proceedings. These ignited the explosions of anger that led to the people's judgment at Edsa.

The Constitution provides that "sovereignty resides in the people and all government authority emanates from them." If their delegates in government cannot or will not perform their assigned functions, the people as their principal have the right to recall and perform those functions themselves. Independently of the impeachment process, the people have the authority to directly exercise any and all powers, including the power of removal, that they have entrusted to their agents. The people can do this because they are the ultimate repository of sovereignty.

This may be a constitutional shortcut, but the important thing is that it is constitutional. While I do not recommend it every time there is a constitutional crisis, it may be justified in extreme cases like Estrada's ouster on the time-honored principle of *salus populi est suprema lex.*

I also submit that even if Estrada was not validly removed, he nevertheless ceased to be President by virtue of his resignation. It is true that he refused to submit a written and signed resignation and has not done so to date. However, a resignation need not be in writing although this is the usual form. A valid resignation may be made orally and may even be implied.

In the morning of Jan. 20, all the personal belongings of the Estrada family were packed and carted away in several vehicles. Shortly after lunch, Mr. Estrada himself appeared to take his leave and personally thanked the Malacañang staff and the presidential security group. After shaking hands with his well-wishers, he boarded the launch that would take him and his family to their private residence in San Juan.

If this was not a final leave-taking, what were all those sentimental goodbyes for? Why were some people weeping openly because the President was going? Why was Erap accompanied by his wife and children in these ceremonious proceedings when, as he now wants us to believe, he was merely taking a rest and fully intended to return?

It is not denied that Erap departed from the Palace after, and not before, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's oath-taking. Some argue she could not have occupied at that time a position still filled by President Estrada. I respectfully disagree. I submit that Estrada's resignation retroacted to before her induction as his constitutional successor, making the presidency vacant when she legally assumed it.

The Supreme Court in effect acknowledged Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as the new President of the Philippines when Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. swore her into office on Jan. 20. The associate justices of the Supreme Court accompanied their chief to the oath-taking at Edsa. Davide's action was later confirmed unanimously by the Court last Monday.

I understand there is now a petition challenging the legitimacy of the new government. I hope the Supreme Court also gives it short shrift, as when it sustained the Aquino government after Edsa 1. Significantly, even the diplomatic corps attended in full force the *vin d'honneur* tendered by the new President at Malacañang recently. World leaders, including US President George W. Bush, have sent congratulations.

The Estrada remnants are beating a dead horse. Their discredited hero's heyday is over, his abused power gone forever in disgrace. We now have a new President and a reorganized government. The vestiges of the past wicked regime are being eradicated and its cronies and confederate in crime have fled or are in hiding. Be sensible for once, Erap. Give it up!

* * *

Reactions to this column may be faxed to 821-7055.

Somebody's watching

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

ALTHOUGH it certainly gives one pause, I am not disheartened by the hue and cry raised about the GMA administration in general, and its appointments in particular. The "huers and criers" declare that all is lost because: (a) there is a feeding frenzy going on among in-again politicians and military officers who have been on the outside looking in for the past two and a half years; or (b) it is actually the Ramos administration or people all over again; or (c) People Power 2 has died aborning—power has gone back not to the people but the *trapos*, and what we have is just another set of *kaibigans, kamaganaks, kumpares* and maybe even cronies—worse, with some carryovers from the immediate past.

On the contrary, I take all this hullabaloo as a very encouraging sign. Let me explain.

Certainly there are some very puzzling omissions and commissions as far as those appointments go, which tend unfortunately to overshadow outstanding appointments like those of eminently qualified Vicky Garchitorena, Dinky Soliman and Ging Deles (to the PMS, DSWD and Napci, respectively); or Bert Romulo, Emy Boncodin and Dante Canlas.

One wonders, for example, why Karina David, who was the first Erap Cabinet member to resign, the first whistle-blower, so to speak, did not get back her old job, as everyone hoped (and even expected).

The benefits of reappointing her are clear: she has impeccable NGO and academic credentials, no corruption tainted her in a sector which had been used as a cash cow before her time, she did an excellent job during her stint in housing (at least that was the general consensus), she had her priorities right (the poor rather than the middle and upper class), she had no *trapo* baggage. Last but by no means the least, she would not have to undergo the J-shaped learning curve, but rather hit the ground running, and continue what was interrupted by her departure. One would have thought they would have grabbed her, but one would have thought wrong.

Then there is Mar Roxas. Young, representing at least a newer breed of politician-technocrat, he apparently did an excellent job at the DTI, and gave it a focus it never had. More importantly, the politician-technocrat also had principles, which he did not hesitate to adhere to, even if it meant giving up power. He was the first (and only, alas) Cabinet member to resign after "juetengate," when it became clear that the President was lying through his teeth.

He, too, could have hit the ground running—in the right direction.

Or how about Josie Lichauco, who knows the Department of Transportation and Communication (at least the communication part) like the back of her hand? A career professional, she resigned from the Erap administration in disgust over the capture of that agency by the likes of cronies Jaime Dichaves and Lucio Tan, who seemed to be calling all the shots, to the great detriment of the Filipino people. Moreover, she did what Mar did not do: she became very active in the Erap Resign movement, and spoke out at every opportunity she could find.

The last on my list of what-a-pity-for-the-country examples is Mel (Zorayda) Alonzo. Another competent professional, who did a great job as head of the Pag-IBIG Fund, she is an expert on pension funds. My information is that she was considered for the GSIS position—and she would have been eminently qualified. But she didn't get the job.

Giving Karina, Mar, Josie and Mel positions in the new administration would have almost certainly been met with general approval. Their qualifications and performance would have passed the closest scrutiny. And while it would not have stilled all critical tongues (nothing ever does), it would certainly have enhanced the image of the administration as one where professional, and not personal and political considerations were paramount. That the administration was well on its way to being a regime where what-you-know was more important than who-you-know.

Contrast these with the reactions to, say, the appointment of Leandro Mendoza as PNP chief, which has been given tremendous attention in the media, as well as the appointments of others whose qualifications for the post are generally of the personal and political rather than professional variety, and one begins to understand the hue and cry.

So why am I not disheartened by all that hullabaloo? Why do rumors about the Erap cronies now contributing to administration party coffers (or to people claiming to be representatives of the administration or the party) not fill me with dismay? Because, and I do not consider this a *consuelo-de-bobo*-type rationalization, it is precisely this hue and cry, this cacophony of complaints, that will keep the administration on its toes and make it keep its nose clean. It is a signal to the powers-that-be that somebody out there is watching, and ready to blow the whistle at the slightest provocation. It is a sign that the Filipino patience and tolerance for corruption and abuse that were beginning to be regarded as indicators of "learned helplessness" on our part are at the very least wearing thin.

Certainly there is also the danger of the crying-wolf-too-often effect, that people will get so inured to complaints that they will no longer mind them. But I'd rather take my chances on that than listen to the silence of despair.

Pluses for GMA

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IN EVERY administration, appointments to the Cabinet never satisfy everybody. There will always be those who are happy about the appointments and those who are unhappy largely because they have been left out. But one thing good about the new President is that, as I said earlier, she doesn't owe her position to any power bloc, except the fountain of all authority, the people. Thus, she can be bold and daring in her appointments, keeping in mind only what's good for the country and what will help her run the government.

* * *

There are several things going for the President. One is her well-formed work ethic, which is so welcome after seeing the total lack of it in her predecessor. Palace staffers are heartened that she is notoriously on time for all functions. Another is what her former running mate, former Speaker Joe de Venecia, terms "Gloria's boundless energy." I recall that during the 1998 election campaign, when I covered the Lakas-NUCD-Kampi, in Samar while the rest of the Lakas team had gone to sleep at 2 a.m. in preparation for another grueling day, Gloria was still meeting with leaders.

* * *

She hit the ground running after People Power 2, dispensing with all the frills, except for the *vin d'honneur* to meet the foreign diplomats. Now she wants to "recover" Malacañang and live in the old Palace where she grew up. When she called up Marine Commander Edgardo Espinosa during her press conference, in order to extract from him a commitment that he will not participate in any coup, she showed that she is pro-active and ready to seize every moment, like a modern leader. She also has told her son Mikey to put off his political plans. This is great. After all, Mikey is only 32 years old so he has all the time in the world. He should instead help his mom stabilize the government.

Another plus for GMA is her self-confidence which was evident when she appointed Sen. Raul Roco as education secretary, even if he might use the new job to project himself for 2004. It shows that she is not afraid of Roco.

* * *

The race for the vice presidential nomination is heating up, with various groups coming out in favor of this or that candidate. Two who ought to be remembered for their loyal and unwavering devotion to the opposition are Senate Minority Leader Teofisto Guingona and Isabela Rep. Heherson Alvarez.

It will be recalled that Guingona called for Estrada's resignation as early as April last year. Early last October Guingona, after getting first-hand information from Gov. Chavit Singson on Estrada's *jueteng* links, took the Senate floor to denounce Estrada and reiterate his call, three or four days ahead of Singson's press conference. Guingona was among the opposition lawyers in the Senate who carried the ball for impeachment. It has been said that Guingona, who is in his early 70s, is "old already." But he remains strong and healthy in mind and body. In fact, he still plays singles tennis regularly. He would provide the statesman's touch in the Macapagal administration.

* * *

Another personality being mentioned as a VP contender is Isabela Rep. Heherson Alvarez. He was the original author of the impeachment resolution in the House, and when he filed it last October, he was a solitary figure as his fellow representatives refused to sign it. Quezon City Rep. Mike Defensor even called up then Vice President Macapagal in Rome to ask her to stop the filing of the impeachment resolution. But Alvarez went ahead, sensing the time was opportune, but only Bohol Rep. Ernesto Herrera joined him. Alvarez turned to the NGO representatives who readily agreed to sign the resolution as co-complainants.

A rabid environmentalist, Alvarez, who was closely associated with Ninoy Aquino in the exile movement in the United States, has never wavered in the opposition.

* * *

Earlier I said that the military wouldn't have had to play a prominent role in the downfall of Estrada had the Cabinet resigned en masse, especially after the fiasco with the second envelope. But the Cabinet members hedged, with the majority resigning only after the military broke away from Estrada—a clear case of opportunism. On the other hand, a few chose to stick with him to the end out of the mistaken notion that they have to put "personal friendship" above country.

It was the undersecretaries and assistant secretaries who displayed more conviction and principles. I have praised earlier Defense Undersecretary Ruben Carranza and Interior Undersecretary Alex Padilla. Another official who resigned quite early—on the Feast of the Epiphany, Jan. 6—was Transportation Undersecretary Agustin R. Bengzon after serving for two and a half years. In his resignation letter, Bengzon cited health and financial reasons, but sources said he felt he could no longer continue working for the administration after all the issues against Estrada had come out.

* * *

Bengzon left the DOTC at a time when things were going well for him. His pet project had been approved by the Economic Coordinating Council and only needed the President's signature. This project is the Alternative Communications Program (ACP), which replaces the Telepono sa Barangay project. It seeks to install pay phones for 34,000 barangays as well as multi-purpose telecenters with Internet connection in 1,500 towns across the nation. The ACP aims to bridge the "digital divide." It will be funded and operated entirely by the private sector. The ACP will cost only P5.8 billion to operate, compared to P65 billion for the original TSB project. The ACP project has been a "work of love" for Bengzon and he's justifiably proud of it, but this did not keep him from leaving the government when he was confronted by the political reality. Kudos to Ting Bengzon.

* * *

The resignation of Defense Secretary Orly Mercado over the appointment of former AFP Chief of Staff Lisandro Abadia was to be expected. Mercado said he couldn't work with Abadia whom he had caused to be investigated even during his Senate days for the RSBS scandal. Executive Secretary Renato de Villa has always been Abadia's patron during their days in the AFP. But De Villa should have known better than to recommend Abadia, given this sticky situation involving Mercado. As a towering figure in the Macapagal administration, he ought to be careful about his recommendations as they could be embarrassing to the new President who seems to have given him so much trust.

Competing voices

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"IT'S not important for me to know my appointees personally," says President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the process—already under fire—of selecting her appointees to the Cabinet and other key offices. "I don't have to know them myself, but it is important that I know of them, of their reputation."

I had the chance to talk with the President Thursday evening, during the wake for Dr. Pedro Braganza, the father of Pangasinan Rep. Hernani Braganza, who headed the prosecution secretariat during the impeachment trial. Earlier that day, groups as varied as the Makati Business Club, the Council on Philippine Affairs (Copa) and pagbabago@pilipinas, a "watchdog" network of young professionals, had come out with critical statements assailing the seeming lack of transparency in the selection process and the "creeping *trapo*-ism" in the Macapagal administration.

"Well, that's part of the process," President GMA shrugged when I brought up the complaints. There is no truth to allegations that the "search committee" has been sidelined in favor of GMA's political patrons, she indicated. The committee, composed of respected former government officials (former CSC Chair Pat Sto. Tomas, Chito Sobrepeña, formerly of the PMS and former Public Works Secretary Fiorello Estuar), was supposed to "screen" possible appointees, collect the pertinent papers, investigate the candidates' backgrounds and give the President a short list of the "best" candidates for a post. The scuttlebutt, however, is that the committee has been reduced to mere paper-pushing. "But background work is precisely what they were asked to do," the President stressed. "Where they have been most helpful, is in telling me whom **not** to appoint."

* * *

SHE takes responsibility for every appointment she has made so far. The President even takes pride in her more "unconventional" and unexpected choices, including Dick Gordon as tourism secretary.

"I wasn't happy with the names on the short list," GMA explains, "because I knew them and their views about how best to promote tourism were rather conventional." Then during a meeting with some businessmen, the President asked what they thought should be done about tourism. "They said tourism needed a boost, and should be headed by someone with energy and drive, someone like Dick Gordon. That's when it struck me: Why not appoint Dick Gordon to tourism?"

The President, a trained economist whose interest in and knowledge of these matters are evident in the way she can talk on and on about strategies for growth and policies for human resource development, seems to have been able to cobble together her economic team without too much difficulty or delay. In contrast, she seems to be having a much harder time deciding on portfolios with impact on both the economy and society. Agriculture and agrarian reform, for instance, which have constituencies of widely disparate interests, have yet to be filled. When I asked her about the health department, saying I was particularly concerned about the future of the reproductive health program, she smiled and said, "That's precisely why I'm taking my time deciding."

* * *

NO one certainly envies the position Ms Macapagal is in right now. As another columnist wrote, with her power to appoint comes the power to "disappoint" all those losing out in the jockeying for posts. And it certainly doesn't help when Peping Cojuangco and cohorts trot out Chavit Singson and cry "injustice" because none of their gang has been given a plum reward. It was with amusement that I listened to the President seek to placate the Copa camp by saying she had already appointed Tingting Cojuangco as presidential assistant on "many things."

Now I can understand how Erap, surrounded by supporters with an even more puffed-up sense of entitlement, was driven to name hundreds of presidential advisers and assistants, from distant relatives to fading matinee idols. But again, the question must be asked: Whose voice prevails in the appointment of senior officials who will define, for the next three years at least, the kind of government we will live under?

A bit of advice, then. When keeping an ear out for voices of guidance, the President need only recall the swelling voices raised in protest and triumph in the months, weeks and days leading to that bright day at the Edsa Shrine. Those are the only voices worth listening to.

* * *

A FEW words about Dr. Pedro Braganza, who left this world at the age of 89 a day after former President Erap left Malacañang. Diagnosed just a few months ago with colon cancer that had metastasized, Tio Pedring told his wife and children that they shouldn't worry because "I won't die until Erap resigns."

His son and older child congressman Nani came to visit his father at the hospital ecstatic at the turn of events at Edsa, but dared not tell his father the news. But Tio Pedring may have in the end known about it in his heart.

A doctor by training, Tio Pedring chose instead to jump into the world of local politics and scholarship. In our hometown of Alaminos, he was known as the town's definitive historian, a raconteur who would spin stories about the town's prominent families at the slightest prodding. He married his wife Purita rather late in life, having two children by her, Nani and Ella. I remember they made an amusing sight: the little Nani clutching the hand of his father, already balding and a little stooped, as they took a morning stroll.

An oppositionist by inclination, Tio Pedring distinguished himself as the only anti-Marcos figure in town in the post-Ninoy protest years. His reward was a short stint as OIC of Alaminos, Pangasinan after Edsa 1. Nani's involvement in the impeachment process then is but an extension of his father's lifelong identification with the underdog.

Postmortem

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

WHO would have thought the impeachment trial would convert me into an overweight TV junkie? Ever since it started, Monday to Friday, from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., I would find myself slouched on the couch munching away on potato chips (with dips naturally), growing wider by the minute, fascinated by the different stoles and pashminas displayed by the honorable lady senator-judges. (Did I get that right? Were you really supposed to add "Your Honor" with every breath you took?)

The jewelry was interesting, too. I couldn't figure out if two of them had cocktails and dinners to attend after the proceedings. The award for consistently Most Appropriately Dressed goes to Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago even if I couldn't figure out the relevance or materiality of the educational attainment of the cook of Charlie Ang's mother. Poor Delia Rajas did say she finished sixth grade, so why ask her *kung nakatungtung siya sa* high school? In the end Santiago outwitted even herself.

Then there was the honorable Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, the man you love to hate. It was a toss-up between him, Kit Tatad, Estelito Mendoza and Ernesto Maceda. Nobody but nobody could beat Maceda's odious sneer coupled with the blank expression in his eyes. Simply beautiful. (Maybe he could have given Sidney Greenstreet in "The Maltese Falcon" a run for his money.) I still can't believe he actually said a certain party didn't have the smarts to organize all those bombings. No wonder he was the shortest-lived spokesperson on record, besting the one who stayed up to 4 a.m. and tattled. (Next day he was back on the job making people wonder who was calling the shots.) Enrile's tight little grimace of arrogance appeared to express his impatience—as if everyone was trying his patience and he was enduring the idiots around him. As for Mendoza, I guess anyone's sneer would turn into a grimace if he has to suddenly invent an explanation for why alleged strangers used his office to sign papers whose contents he didn't know.

One of these days a local version of Deep Throat is going to write that best seller (from somewhere preferably safe and out of reach like Butte, Montana), about the life and times of a certain Jose Velarde. Or how Malacañang changed into the Republic of Xiamen after midnight just like Cinderella's coach turning into a pumpkin. (Did you know that in a resort of Xiamen there's a statue to the corsair Koxinga?)

The accents were absolutely enthralling. If only there were monetary rewards for every word that was mispronounced, we'd all be millionaires. Between the tesTImonies and the Shoopreme Court and the Cans-ti-tusyan (long a) and Sen. Blas Ople sitting there like a museum specimen, I haven't been so entertained since Marcos said women belonged in the bedroom (or was it the kitchen?) and we all rushed out to the streets instead. How come no one thought of holding the proceedings in Filipino and Cebuano? Surely there are still a few competent translators around.

Someone even noted that there were all kinds of people speaking Spanish in the gallery, which is the weirdest thing. I thought they were all extinct—in public anyway. And whatever would they be doing there, except that I read somewhere that it was the "in" place. At one point I was beginning to feel that we'd all have to learn Fujian or Cantonese or whatever the flavor-of-the-month high-roller spoke, especially with the expected acquittal. On the other hand, a "Casino on every Corner" would have solved Danny Corpus' selling job for the Philippines and we could all stop arguing about a national language.

My friend Marylou said she wouldn't mind if only these were the types of casinos you found in Monte Carlo and James Bond (not you-know-who looking like a zonked-out walrus) sat at the baccarat table. Wishful thinking. Some of us still didn't realize that the enterprise of the day was "take the money and run." Nobody was there for the long term.

The darn proceedings actually made me feel good when the Defense was as much asea as I was with lawyer Ruben Almadro talking about *washay* (I swear to you that's what it sounded like) or in discussions of collateral proof and incidental evidence (huh?). Eight hours of munching on garlic peanuts, salmon spread on toast, chocolate fudge, diet Sarsi and not understanding a word of the proceedings became addictive.

I kept consoling myself with the thought that the one good thing about being dead broke was that hopefully the wretched government would not be demolishing any other landmarks like the Jai Alai Building. With the economic situation expected to be dismal for some time to come, maybe something can be saved. Admittedly this was rotten for the rest of us but good for preserving buildings. What I didn't understand was why the Boardwalk Flagship Project of the Lord of Lords continued. Was Lito Banayo an Angara man? There it was rising almost adjacent to Mayor Lito Atienza's fine dining restaurant (in a style that has nothing to do with the Army & Navy structure beside it), with the same tired unimaginative concept of providing more restaurants and shopping for a population that has barely enough to buy rice and *bagoong*. More to the point, where was the money for its construction borrowed so we know whom we're going to pay, how much and for how long.

The banks will want their pound of flesh. Pass me the potato chips, please.

Edsa

Raph Doval Santos

YOUNGBLOOD

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

DEAR Mom and Dad,

Do you remember last Friday, Jan. 19, 2001? There's hardly a single person in the country who doesn't. That was a historic day. And I am writing this to let you know what I thought of that day.

When you asked my brother, my sister and me to join the Edsa rally that afternoon, I consented half-heartedly. Frankly I would have preferred not to go. I knew some of my closest friends and batch mates had left the school and were on their way there. But I really didn't feel that I had to stand up and be counted like you guys.

All throughout the week, I watched you coming home late at night and waking sleepless in the morning. After two days of joining the protest, I was worried that soon your son, his problems and your, shall we say, "duties" as parents were being pushed to the background and forgotten. More and more I felt neglected, as I hardly got to talk to you anymore unless I forced myself to stay up late. Even then, you were always talking about Erap this and Erap that, and I was rather glad that I wasn't too much interested in politics.

All that afternoon, before I called you on my cell phone, I was feeling blue, thinking that my parents wanted to keep fighting at the expense of me.

That changed when you asked me to go to Edsa—with you guys, no less.

Given the choice, I would have gone with my friends that day, but with no money (because someone forgot to give me my allowance), I had no alternative but to ride with you. I hadn't a clue of how much of an ordeal it was going to be, inching through the two-hour traffic along Katipunan Road at two in the afternoon in the mind-numbing heat to reach the Edsa Shrine. There, we wove in and out of the crowd and pushed while breathing in the smell of thousands of people who had been standing on the street for hours. Dust accumulated in my lungs and each breath was a struggle. The loud chants of "Erap resign!" and "*Hatol ng bayan*: Guilty *si* Erap" were deafening. By the time we entered Robinson's Galleria, I was already coughing and gasping for oxygen after inhaling all the cigarette smoke and fermented rush-hour smog.

The mall wasn't a safe haven either. Robinson's was packed and we had to keep moving lest we got trampled by the horde.

I was disillusioned. Going to the rally wasn't the fun trip my friends and I thought it to be. Now, amid the huge throng of protesters, I wanted very badly to leave, to go home. Ironically, for an apolitical person like me, it was only as I was marching on the side of the protesters that I felt so alienated and ready to side with the President. Well, almost.

Writing this now days after "Day 3," with nothing to show for it save for a headache, a weary body, a CD (okay, okay, so I went shopping) and a new President, I want to thank you, Mom and Dad, as sincerely as I can.

Going to Edsa wasn't fun, but it helped me understand so many things. I understood why so many people from all walks of life wanted Erap to step down so badly. I could feel in my heart, jostling through the crowd of what must have been millions of people, the convictions I never had in me until then. I realized at last what I wanted so much for my country: a moral, honest and competent leader willing to sacrifice personal pride and glory for the benefit of the nation, even if it meant stepping down once he knows he had screwed things up.

It was by "dragging" me to Edsa that I learned from you and the experience has been a valuable lesson. Some things in life aren't as glamorous or as romantic as you imagine them to be. Heck, there are even things we'd rather avoid because it could be bothersome for us. Yet, in spite of what we may feel, there are things we must do for they will make a difference in the nation's life. There to the site where history was made, you brought me to personally witness what it was like. Fifteen years ago, you were there, too, fighting an evil empire not only for my freedom but for the freedom of all Filipinos. This time you handed me the opportunity to fight for mine.

I realize now what Ninoy Aquino meant when he said, "The Filipino is worth dying for." It doesn't matter much how rich our country is. What matters more is that we, as a people, are willing to rise up and fight for the freedom that is ours. You taught me that, Mom and Dad, and I thank you for it.

This weekend has been sweet, now that we have a new President, a new sense of pride and renewed hope for our future. Maybe all Filipinos have learned too that some things are worth any personal sacrifice we make.

But before I forget, next time something like this comes up, I'd really appreciate it if I can go with my friends. Together we will find our way around.

With love,
Raph

Raph Doval Santos, 17, is a student of the Philippine Science High School.

Next time, read the label

Dennis Paul P. Guevarra

WE were fuming. We were in rage. Why? We forgot to read the label. Yes, we tried not to judge a book by its cover, and being so non-judgmental, we mistook Playboy for the Bible.

And that is where things got complicated. We refused to see the truth for what it is. We refused to look at Erap like what he is. We expected so much more from the man than what he could actually deliver.

We knew there was something fishy about him even before he took his oath of office. His life was an open book, but we turned a blind eye to his shortcomings. "Nobody's perfect," we told ourselves, as we rationalized our acceptance of a womanizing, heavy drinking and gambling President, who also had shady friends.

Then last week we protested in the streets in disgust and recalled the vote given to him by millions of Filipinos. We called Erap, the members of his family and his cohorts "*baboy*," "*ahas*," "*buwaya*," etc. In between our chants to demanding his resignation, cuss words flowed. We damned him for holding on to power. We damned him even more for taking so long to pack his stuff and checks. We damned him, too, because our legs hurt like hell after keeping vigil for four days.

I am not going to do any Erap-bashing anymore. The man did what deep down inside we expected him to do. As a matter of fact, Erap gave a sterling performance being Erap. I find no fault with the man. I even thank him for making my weekday afternoon TV time more suspenseful than the usual *telenovela*. Now my vocabulary has expanded to include a lot of legalese.

I also thank Erap for making me a bit player in his tragic biography. Truth is really stranger than fiction. Imagine, what I did when I joined other protesters at Edsa has made a dramatic impact on his life.

Come to think of it, the Edsa 2 uprising was a dream come true for couch potatoes like me. At some point during the impeachment trial, we got so engrossed that we forgot that we were seeing an actual trial. There were times when we thought we were watching "LA Law" or "Ally McBeal."

Then the debate over the second envelope came. Then the votes were cast, and the Senate president resigned.

Oops, they are not following the formula for a good *telenovela*, we thought. Where is the happy ending? All *telenovelas* are supposed to have happy endings.

Then it dawned upon us that unlike "Gone with the Wind" and other sad stories, the end could be changed. We had the power to rewrite the script of our lives and our nation. We decided not to be victims any longer.

For four days, we waited and waited. We couldn't abandon the street without seeing a happy ending—that's how optimistic we were. And the wait paid off. As if on cue, before the people in Mendiola lost their patience, Erap and family said goodbye.

Whew! All that for a happy ending.

Moral lesson of the story: Next time, when you shop for a candidate, read the label: his qualifications, his moral reputation, his track record. It will spare the nation some dramatic transitions. And it may spare the young from having cramps.

I hope that the success of Edsa 2, the sequel to Edsa 1, does not make an Edsa 3 necessary. Enough of trilogies!

Dennis Paul P. Guevarra, 28, is an educator and a graduate student.

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A 'balimbing' and a do-nothing in Manila

THIS is an appeal to all Manila voters this May election. Let us reject Fred Lim and Lito Atienza. These two are staunch supporters of Estrada.

Lim's sudden appearance at Edsa Friday afternoon showed him to be a *balimbing*.

As for Atienza, what has he done for Manila during his term? *Wala. Dumami lang ang* sidewalk vendors *at* traffic.

The funny thing is that both Atienza and Lim were supported by President Cory Aquino and Jaime Cardinal Sin in the 1998 elections. But despite that, they still showed their unending loyalty to Estrada. *Mga walang utang na loob sa mga bumoto at naniwala sa kanila.*

Let us also reject Atienza's son, Kim Atienza, who is running for councilor in the City of Manila. We appeal to President Macapagal to put up a mayoralty candidate in Manila. *Huwag iboto si* Lim *at* Atienza.—**ALVIN DE JESUS, 3459 Legarda St., Manila**

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For more information on membership, trainings and other SWAPP activities, please contact:

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A night to remember

LETTERS

IT was a grace to be inside the Senate Hall the evening of Jan. 16, 2001. My whole being felt the pulse and heartbeat of the Senate gallery as we agonized at the shrewdness of the defense counsel, Estelito Mendoza; at the futility of the impassioned arguments of the prosecution counsel, Joker Arroyo; and at the betrayal by the 11 senator-judges who obstructed justice.

We were far from being passive spectators. We saw through the ploy of Sen. Francisco Tatad to divide the house and we were sure that he and his cohorts had planned this move, knowing that they had the numbers to prevent the second envelope from being opened. And so we passed on the word that we would show our protest by walking out.

A five-minute break was called during which I was interviewed by dzRH. There and then I predicted that that very night the nation would rise up in protest. Sure enough as soon as the votes were counted and Senate President Nene Pimentel resigned in disgust, the cell phones started ticking with text messages urging everyone to gather at Edsa.

Indeed, it was a night to remember. The images that I have stored in my memory evoked varied emotions. First, I could see animals—the sneaky eyes of a snake, a white haired teddy bear, and a circus of trained animals conditioned by a zoo master. Then there was the exodus of prosecutors and gallery militants marching out in righteous anger. And the tears flowed! Strong men cried and our hearts melted. And how we hugged one another in solidarity!

There was also joy. We clapped and cheered for the valiant 10 and the Senate secretary who resigned. There was pride in this kind of Filipino just as there was shame for the infamous 11.

I could not contain myself when Sen. Ramon Revilla passed by. I followed him to the elevator and told him: "How dare you take a stand that belied the testimony of your own nephew (Ed Espiritu)! Have you forgotten that he risked his life?"

That night, all of me was submerged in the pain of our nation. It was like a catharsis, sweeping away personal hurts. The balm came in the Senate corridors when a group of us women sang "Ang Bayan Ko." Every fiber of our being was inflamed with deep love for our beloved Philippines, so beleaguered at that time of history!—**SR. SOL PERPIÑAN, coordinator, Third World Movement Against the Exploitation of Women, 41 Rajah Matanda St., Project 4, Quezon City**

Sense of obligation

I RESPECTFULLY take exception to an item in the Jan. 22 "Cocktales" column of Victor C. Agustin naming me and Agrarian Reform Secretary Horacio Morales as the musclemen "in charge of mobilization of the pro-Erap rallies, just in case you were wondering who provided all those 'goons'."

In the first place, as the writer correctly pointed out, my constituency is not in Metro Manila but in far-flung Puerto Princesa City which, incidentally, is one of the cleanest, greenest and most peaceful cities in the country. While I was indeed an active member of then President Joseph Estrada's crisis committee to give inputs regarding the situation in the cities, being the secretary general of the League of Cities of the Philippines, and was one of those who stood by him until the very last hours of his presidency, I proudly did so out of my sense of obligation as a local government executive to support the national leadership. I earnestly did this during the time of President Fidel Ramos (as a matter of fact, I supported the candidacy of Speaker Joe de Venecia whom he anointed), and I will continue to do so to whoever sits as president of the Republic.

As one who has always stood for the law and the Constitution ever since I joined government. I could not, for the life of me, be a party to anything that would destroy the ideals that I have always fought for, which are: cleanliness (physical or otherwise), environmental protection, and peace and order.—**EDWARD S. HAGEDORN, mayor, Puerto Princesa City**

Loyalty to the Constitution

THE STUNNING difference between political loyalty—or loyalty to the powers that be—and loyalty to the Constitution never dawned upon me until the success of Edsa 1. Edsa 2 shone brighter than Edsa 1 in terms of a conscious demonstration of loyalty to the Constitution. It was a case where political loyalty ended where loyalty to the Constitution began.

Professional soldiery in the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes, deputy Chief of Staff Gen. Jose Calimlim, Army chief Gen. Deomedio Villanueva, Navy Flag Officer in Command Rear Admiral Guillermo Wong, and Air Force Commanding General Benjamin Defensor made a difference in their gallant demonstration of loyalty to the Constitution. Not to be outdone was the Philippine National Police which joined Edsa 2, pledging to uphold the same fundamental.

The 15 members of the Supreme Court citing the dictum, *Salus populi est suprema lex*, installed Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who was sworn into office by Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. as the 14th President of the Republic without any legal impediment.

Loyalty to the Constitution will only be meaningful and beneficial to the common *tao* if translated by the new political leadership into an effective and efficient government bureaucracy where the delivery of necessary goods and services is transparent and accountable and devoid of graft and corrupt practices.—**BORMEO G. MODANZA, national chair, Filipino Inventors Society Inc., Tapi Bldg., DOST Compound, Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila**

Needed: community garbage disposal co-ops

AS I was passing the C-5 road, I noticed that the street was lined with garbage on the sides and the middle of the road. It seems that people have nowhere to dump their garbage; perhaps because of the closure of the main dump in Rizal. But even before its closure, many cities and municipalities in Metro Manila were already having problems with garbage collection and disposal.

It seems that most of us will not move until our own garbage starts to pile up in front of our residence. By that time, it will be too late. The uncollected garbage can be the cause of disease.

For many years, experts on environmental issues have been giving us solutions, and yet we have failed to heed their calls.

For whatever it is worth, let us try to reduce our individual garbage by:

- Organizing a recycle brigade of volunteers within our street (to sell all recyclable waste).
- Segregating household waste to facilitate collection.
- Converting bio-degradable waste or materials into fertilizer, instead of placing them into our garbage cans.
- Brainstorming among our neighbors on the best way to dispose of plastic bags, tin cans, bottles and styrofoam (hopefully, no more plastic bags into our garbage cans or bins).
- Organizing garbage disposal cooperatives within our cities and municipalities to plan future solid waste programs and to comply fully with garbage disposal laws and regulations.—**RAFFY PERFECTO, Fuji Street, BF Homes, Parañaque City**

After Edsa, take out the garbage

MY husband and I read the news about Joseph Estrada stepping down from power with a sense of relief. We were misty-eyed.

We came back from the Philippines last Jan. 19 after a three-month holiday. We watched the impeachment proceedings closely, and the day we left, we were quite apprehensive about what would be the outcome of "people power" at Edsa. Thank God, there was no violence, and Estrada abandoned his sinking ship. Thanks to people power and the people's faith in prayer, their vigilance, their perseverance and hope that something good would come out from their sacrifices.

I am proud of my countrymen. I hope that they will be forever vigilant of their elected public officials who should keep their promises. Those officials are elected to help the people and the country, not to get rich while they are in power.

I hope that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will keep her goals in sight and that she will really practice "leadership by example." I also hope she will be able to get someone into her Cabinet who can solve the perennial problem of garbage disposal.

I hope that the Filipino people will wake up and realize that it is everyone's duty to educate at home the young not to throw their garbage anywhere and everywhere. And this includes the bad habit of relieving themselves anywhere. I have been away from the country for 33 years and it is sad to know that we haven't done much to improve our garbage management and our toilet habits!

We are a good people and a good nation, but we need discipline. The world is watching us. Let's show everyone we can do it. Twice we have toppled abusive leaders at Edsa. Surely we can accomplish this little task of keeping clean, not only in our homes but also in our surroundings.

It's been an experience to be home again.—**ESPIE AVILA AQUINO, Maple Ridge, British Columbia, Canada**

Gov't should make IT a top priority

FIRST of all, allow us to congratulate President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on her "overdue" assumption of the presidency of the Republic of the Philippines.

As foreigners, we were basically forced to watch "people power" from the sidelines. We fully understood that the necessary and more urgent transition was something Filipinos had to do. After months of frustration, during which it was so difficult to maintain a little bit of optimism, the patches of blue have suddenly widened and multiplied.

Of course, we are fully aware of the damage done to the economy and the image of the Philippines. It will take a year or more to bring the economy back in shape and there are so many problems left behind by the previous administration, political, economic and social, but what is important is that the psychology has changed. For the first time in many months, businessmen will be in the mood to do business, seeing the glass as half-full rather than half-empty.

We, who are from Europe, strongly suggest that the government focus on information technology where the Philippines can offer solutions to problems most European countries have like in developing web activities, e-commerce and making b2b work.

Infrastructure development under the former regime was one of the most frustrating and discouraging activities. Under the new administration, it makes good business sense to revive the projects that were put in the backburner. The need for honest-to-goodness infrastructure is there and requires urgent attention because investors will not come if the basic infrastructure is not in place or being developed.

The purpose of this letter is to let President Macapagal know that we are behind her in getting things started, in promoting the New Philippines abroad and in encouraging foreign investors to seriously look at business opportunities in this country again.—**CLAUS SUDHOFF, president, European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, 19th Floor, PS Bank Tower, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue cor. Tindalo Street, Makati City**

Quake hits India, Pakistan; 483 die

NEW DELHI—A major earthquake rolled across the entire Indian subcontinent on Friday, killing at least 483 people as it rocked buildings from western Pakistan to Nepal and Bangladesh.

The quake, registering 7.9 in magnitude, "is a major earthquake bordering on a great earthquake," said Bill Smith, a geophysicist with the US Geological Survey's National Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colorado. "In a densely populated area, a 7.9 quake can kill many thousands."

The quake at 8:46 a.m. had an epicenter near the town of Bhuj in the Rann of Kutch, a desert plateau on the border between Pakistan and India, said the Indian Meteorological Center.

Most of the 483 reported deaths were in India's arid western state of Gujarat, where the provincial home minister, Haren Pandya, said 100 buildings had collapsed, 40 in the main commercial center, Ahmedabad.

"The whole state has been affected. Communications have been disrupted all over the state," he said as he confirmed at least 130 deaths. He said the Army was on alert and a rapid force had been called in to help dig through the rubble.

New Delhi Television, with a reporter in Gujarat, said there were an additional six to eight deaths there. Two children were killed when their family home in Pakistan collapsed, bringing the preliminary death toll to at least 483.

There were also reports of mine cave-ins, train derailments, broken water pipes, downed power and phone lines.

The epicenter was also only 110 km northeast of Jamnagar, the site of India's largest petrochemical factory owned by Reliance Industries, according to the US Geological Survey information.

The quake, which hit as many cities were celebrating India's 51st Republic Day, caused high-rise buildings to sway from New Delhi in the north, to Bombay, Madras and Calcutta on the southern coasts.

It was felt in Nepal and an apparent aftershock hit a half-hour after the quake in Bangladesh, where hundreds of panicked residents came out into the streets of in Satkhira, on the border with India.

"We've pulled out many bodies from the rubble of a building collapse, as well as three bodies after a stampede in a diamond factory," said Vineet Gupta, police commissioner of Surat, 300 km southeast of the quake's epicenter.

He said 18 bodies had been pulled from the rubble of three buildings and 40 people were hospitalized after being rescued.

The diamond cutters had crowded into a narrow stairwell, trying to push their way out of the only exit door from the three-story factory and some were crushed, he said.

"People living in high-rise buildings had vacated the building when the quake occurred," said Nikhil Jain, 21, a shopowner in Surat's main market. "Now people are panicked. They are huddling outside, and are refusing to go back into the building, even though two hours have passed since the quake.

"Cracks have appeared in several buildings, including cracks on the walls of the fire station," he said.

The earthquake hit just before the start of the annual Republic Day parade in India's capital, New Delhi, where bleachers swayed about a half-hour before Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, President Kocheril Narayanan and the guest of honor, President Abdelaziz Bouteflika of Algeria arrived for the three-hour military display. *AP*

Cops arrest barbers who style hair a la 'Titanic'

KABUL—The Taliban religious police have jailed 22 hairdressers for giving western-style haircuts referred to among young men in Kabul as "the Titanic," residents said Thursday.

The hairstyle mimics that of actor Leonardo DiCaprio and the cut is named for The Titanic, the movie in which he starred. Cinemas in Kabul were closed when the Taliban took power in 1996 believing images were contrary to Islam.

But pirated videos of movies, including the Titanic, can be found in Kabul and watched by those who still have television sets and video casette recorders hidden in their homes.

Religious police deployed by the Taliban's ministry of vice and virtue—responsible for imposing the religious militia's brand of Islamic rule—say the hairstyle is offensive, according to Mohammed Arif, a barber in Kabul.

The hairstyle allows hair on the forehead, which the Taliban say could interfere with a person's ability to say his prayers. Muslim prayers are said while bowing toward Mecca in Saudi Arabia, Islam's holiest site.

The arrests began Saturday. So far 22 men have been arrested.

Arif watched while bearded Taliban religious police stormed into his business and arrested his colleague.

"There isn't anything you can do," he said.

The religious police patrol Afghanistan's beleaguered capital arresting violators of the Taliban's strict brand of Islam, that requires the faithful to literally follow the teachings of the Muslim bible, the Koran and dress as Islam's prophet, Mohammed, dressed in the seventh century when he founded their religion.

Men are not allowed to shave and trimming beards is strictly forbidden.

But Arif said men secretly trim their beards. *AP*

Venezuela jet crashes; 24 aboard killed

CARACAS—An airplane with 24 people aboard, including European and US tourists, crashed late Thursday in a shantytown in the Venezuelan city of Ciudad Bolivar, killing everyone aboard, local officials announced here.

Two children and an elderly woman in the shantytown were badly injured in the crash, officials said.

The airplane, a DC-3 of the Venezuelan Rutaca airline, was taking foreign tourists from the Canaima National Park in southeastern Venezuela to Margarita Island, a tourist enclave on Venezuela's northern coast.

According to a list made public by Rutaca, the victims included five tourists from Holland, six from the United States, four Italians, two Hungarians, an Austrian, and six Venezuelans, including four crew members.

Earlier reports included French, British and Spanish tourists among the group.

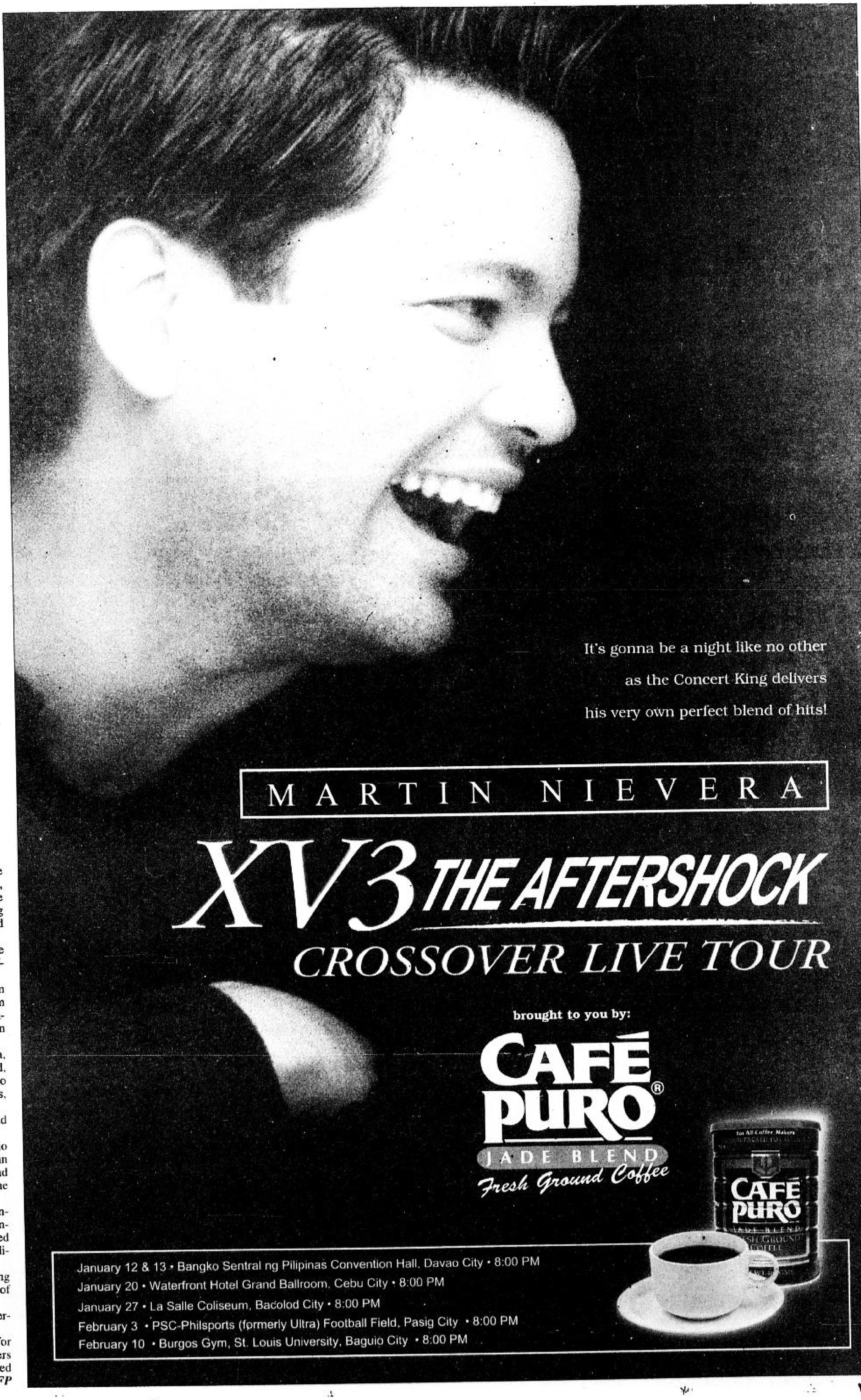
The governor of the state of Bolivar, Antonio Rojas, said that the pilot was trying to make an emergency landing when the plane crashed and burst into flames around 6:30 p.m. "Everyone died," Rojas said.

The head of Venezuela's Civil Defense, Angel Rangel, said late Thursday that rescuers managed to extinguish the raging flames and pulled out charred remains that could not be immediately identified.

The pilot had just completed a routine fueling stop at Cuidad Bolivar, 450 km southeast of Caracas, an airport official said.

An investigation will be conducted to determine the cause of the crash, Rangel said.

He said Rutaca would be responsible for contacting families of the deceased foreigners and arranging for their remains to be returned to their home countries. *AFP*



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February 10 • Burgos Gym, St. Louis University, Baguio City • 8:00 PM

WHERE THE POPPIES BLOOM REUTERS

Thai soldiers hack at poppy plants grown illegally by opium traffickers along the northwestern Thai-Burma border near Chiangmai, Jan. 24. The annual opium destruction campaign was conducted by the military on hundreds of hectares of hilly, forested areas that are populated by tribal folk.

Tanker captain admits 'confidence' caused Galapagos oil spill

PUERTO BAQUERIZO, Galapagos Islands—The captain of a crippled tanker who admitted his "overconfidence" caused the accident that spilled at least 185,000 gallons of fuel off the Galapagos Islands is under medical treatment for nerves, officials said.

Capt. Tarquino Arevalo, 58, whose tanker, Jessica, ran aground Jan. 16 after he turned off his radar at night and mistook a signal buoy for a lighthouse, was unable to resume answering investigators' questions Thursday, said Dr. Franklin Espinosa, a physician at a naval base medical clinic.

"He presented moderate lower back pain and sharp abdominal pains from nervous tension," Espinosa said. "Psychologically, he is not stable and he required specialized help." The doctor did not give details.

Arevalo remained hospitalized under police custody at the naval base Thursday. At least three criminal proceedings have been announced against the captain, his crew and an official from Petrocomercial, an affiliate of the state-owned oil company Petroecuador.

A Galapagos province penal judge ordered Arevalo and the Petrocomercial official, Julio Guerrero, to remain in police custody until investigations are complete.

Meanwhile, environmentalists were relieved Thursday over the limited impact of the spill into a marine environment that supports unique animal and bird species and inspired Charles Darwin's theory of evolution.

Only one pelican and two seagulls are known to have died. Still, dozens of other birds and marine animals—sea lions, seagulls, blue-footed boobies and albatrosses—have been affected, Galapagos park officials said.

"We have had a lot of luck because the sea currents, the winds and the strong sun have kept the spill from causing major damage," said Fernando Espinoza, director of the Charles Darwin Foundation's research station. *AP*

Avoid politics, laureate cautioned

HONG KONG—An exiled Chinese who won the Nobel literature prize plans to visit next week, and pro-Beijing figures say it would be best if he avoids politics to prevent any repeats of the controversy surrounding a recent Falun Gong meeting.

Critics fear Hong Kong's freedoms are again under threat, and some observers argue it is impossible to separate the political elements from Gao Xingjian's literature—given his background that includes time in a hard labor camp in a homeland he cannot return to.

"Hong Kong is a financial and trading center, not a political center, not an anti-China political base," said Xu Simin, 87, Hong Kong's representative to the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, a powerful mainland advisory body.

"There is no reason to object to him if he is coming here to talk about writing, but if he would accuse the Chinese government of oppressing him, that would be wrong," Xu said. "That would embarrass the Hong Kong government."

"If we invite people who will attack China, such as controversial figures like Falun Gong, the Dalai Lama, and if they have a mission or political motive, that would be trouble for us," said Ma Lik, secretary general of Hong Kong's biggest pro-Beijing political party, the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong. Ma also is a local representative of the mainland National People's Congress.

But Hong Kong retains free speech guarantees—a holdover from British colonial days—and such comments stir outrage among China critics and pro-democracy campaigners.

"Can you ask a writer to share his literary experience but only to share the technique and not the content?" asked Han Dongfang, a Hong Kong-based Chinese dissident persecuted after the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy movement.

Gao once burned his writings to keep them from falling into the wrong hands during Mao Zedong's brutal 1966-76 Cultural Revolution and he spent five years doing hard labor. *AP*

PRE-ELECTION JITTERS

Barak, Arafat paint dark picture of Sharon

JERUSALEM—Ehud Barak's TV ad is a scary thing to see: grainy footage of full-scale war in the West Bank and Gaza, reports of hundreds killed in a single day, Arab armies amassing on the borders. This, says the ad, would be the result if Ariel Sharon unseats Barak as Israel's prime minister on Feb. 6.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat also paints a dark picture of an election victory by Sharon—patron of Jewish settlers, engineer of Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon and longtime opponent of the land-for-peace idea. He told a British newspaper that a Sharon government would be a "real disaster."

With a surprising double-digit lead in the polls, the hawkish leader of the opposition Likud Party is saying as little as possible himself. He avoids interviews and fills the airwaves and billboards with jingles and slogans in praise of national unity, security, and especially—opponents say dishonestly—the word "peace."

"His entire campaign has been an exercise in hiding himself," says Israeli political analyst Hanan Crystal.

So far it's worked, perhaps because so many Israelis are distressed at Barak's leadership—and what some see as overly generous peace offers—and because Israeli Arabs appear to be boycotting Barak to protest the killing of 13 of their number during pro-Palestinian protests last fall.

Sharon's front-runner status has left many people trying to figure out what would happen under the man who, ever since gaining fame as an elite paratroop officer in the 1950s, has been known for his blunt opposition to Palestinians' hopes for nationhood.

Some Israelis admire the burly 72-year-old ex-general as a war hero who helped turn the tide of the 1973 war with an armored charge across the Suez Canal. His photo, in head bandage, became an emblem of the Israeli military man.

But many also see Sharon as reckless and dangerous, blaming him for dragging Israel into nearly two decades of battles in Lebanon that killed hundreds of Israeli soldiers. Sharon led the 1982 Lebanese invasion as defense minister—and was forced to resign after an inquiry found him indirectly responsible for the massacre of hundreds of Palestinian refugees. He has since been reviled by many Arabs—and Israelis as well. *AP*

84 party members of Suu Kyi freed from Burma prison

RANGOON—In another sign of improving relations between Burma's (also known as Myanmar) military government and the opposition, authorities released from prison 84 members of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy, a senior party official said Friday.

The 84, including 38 women, included party members who were arrested in April, August and September last year. They were released in small groups from Rangoon's Insein prison on Thursday, the NLD official said on condition of anonymity.

The releases came as tensions are showing signs of easing between the NLD and the ruling military, following secret talks between the two sides over the past four months aimed at breaking a decade-long political impasse in this Southeast Asian nation.

The NLD reported the release of 20 of the activists on Thursday. The rest were freed later in the day. Jubilant party members, including those freed, gathered Friday at the NLD headquarters in the Rangoon, the capital.

Suu Kyi, the party leader, remains under virtual house arrest.

"I will continue with my party activities," said one of the released prisoners, Ma Khine, 32. "That was my third time in prison and hopefully my last."

The senior NLD leader said most of the 84 were NLD youth members. Thirty-one were arrested in April when Suu Kyi was trying to organize the party's youth wing in Rangoon. Two others were arrested in August, after Suu Kyi was engaged in a nine-day standoff with the government, blocked by authorities when she tried to travel outside the capital.

The other 51 were rounded up early on Sept. 22, when the NLD leader attempted to travel to the northern city of Mandalay by train. All the detainees from that incident have now been released, according to the NLD. *AP*

DISASTER AREA AP

People search for survivors amid debris of a building that collapsed after a strong earthquake hit Hyderabad, 160 km north of Karachi, Pakistan. The earthquake rocked Pakistan and India Jan. 26, damaging buildings and houses and killing many people, officials said. ***(See story on Page 9.)***

Milosevic critic is new Serbian PM

BELGRADE—A longtime critic of former President Slobodan Milosevic has taken office as the first pro-democracy prime minister of Yugoslavia's dominant republic of Serbia since World War II, promising that his government would hold Milosevic accountable for alleged crimes.

Zoran Djindjic's promises are bound to be examined closely by the rest of the world. The chief UN war crimes prosecutor, Carla Del Ponte, left Belgrade disappointed Thursday after Yugoslav leaders rejected her demands that the former strongman be tried by the Netherlands-based court rather than before domestic tribunals.

Djindjic, who was sworn in Thursday, wants to see the former president on trial in Yugoslavia—if not because of the four Balkan wars that he is blamed for triggering, then on charges of corruption, economic mismanagement and stealing of public money.

"We shall not organize a witch hunt, but we won't let the members of the former regime hold on to the assets they plundered from the people," Djindjic said Thursday, promising his Cabinet will pass an array of new laws to fight crime and corruption.

For the new prime minister, more than a trial is at stake in dealing with the aftermath of Milosevic's era.

In his own words, Djindjic seeks to "bring the country back on the right track" after more than a decade of wars and economic upheaval. *AP*

Singapore Falun Gong says China defaming followers

SINGAPORE—A group of people who set themselves on fire in China this week were not true followers of the Falun Gong spiritual movement, and China's government is using the self-immolation to defame the group, its Singapore chapter said Friday.

"This so-called suicide attempt . . . has nothing to do with Falun Gong practitioners, because the teachings of Falun Gong prohibit any form of killing," Singapore's officially registered Falun Buddha Society said in a statement.

Five people believed to be Falun Gong followers on Tuesday doused themselves with gasoline and set themselves alight in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. One of them died.

Reports by China's government Xinhua News Agency on the self-immolations were "yet another attempt by a handful of people in the PRC (People's Republic of China) to defame the practice of Falun Gong," the Singapore society's statement said.

The statement called on China's government to let the international media and human rights groups investigate the incident "to clarify the facts."

China banned Falun Gong 18 months ago, labeling the group a dangerous cult that drove members to insanity and suicide.

Believers in the practice, which has millions of followers worldwide, say Falun Gong's Buddhist-inspired meditation and slow-motion exercises build health and morality. *AP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, January 27, 2001
3rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: *Heb 11:1-2, 8-19*
Gospel: *Mk 4:35-41*

One day when evening had come; Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's go across to the other side." So they left the crowd and took him away in the boat he had been sitting in, and other boats set out with him. Then a storm gathered and it began to blow a gale. The waves spilled over into the boat so that it was soon filled with water. And Jesus was in the stern, asleep on the cushion.

But they were terrified and they said to one another, "Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him!"

Commentary:

Jesus "asleep on a cushion" in the boat is Mark's image of peace in the midst of crisis. This .was a timely message for his readers, if we are to believe that he was addressing a community in crisis. The boat was his picture of the Church, and he meant to tell his community not to panic. There was no reason to be afraid for as long as Jesus was in the boat. There he would awaken to teach his disciples not just the art of sleeping through a storm, but also the art of silencing the turbulent sea (alluding to the chaos written about in Genesis, before creation). A most appropriate song that captures the spirit of this reading is St. Teresa of Avila's poem Nada te turbe.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., U.P. Village, Diliman, Quezon City, U.P. P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cnl.net; Website: http://www.cnl.net/claret

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS)—*Habeas corpus*— *Habeas corpus* is a high prerogative writ which furnishes an extraordinary remedy and may not thus be invoked under normal circumstances but, as the Court of Appeals has so aptly explained, the illegal order and warrant of arrest issued by petitioner Judge subsists and private respondent is offered no speedy, adequate remedy or appeal in the ordinary course of law. The writ of *habeas corpus*, although not designed to interrupt the orderly administration of justice, can be invoked, in fine, by the attendance of a special circumstance that requires immediate action. Such a special circumstance is here present considering that respondent cannot resort to the remedy of a motion to quash, the case no longer being with petitioner judge, and neither could he ask for a reinvestigation because the preliminary investigation for purposes of filing the information has already been taken over by the Provincial Prosecutor. The latter, upon the other hand, does not have the authority to lift the warrant of arrest issued by the disqualified judge. Meantime, respondent to lift the warrant of arrest issued by the disqualified judge. Meantime, respondent is being held and detained under an illegal order and warrant of arrest which has no legal standing. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Vitug, Third Division, Calvan v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 140823, October 3, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Kids abandoned by GIs to share sad lives in confab

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ANGELES CITY—They go by different names. In Vietnam, they're called *bui-dois*, the dust of life. In the Philippines, they're called Amerasians.

Other names are denigrating: *Babay na sa* (bye-bye to) daddy, *hanggang* (up to) pier *lang* (only), *negro*, *tisay*. There are 52,000 of them here and in the cities of Olongapo, Ormoc, Cebu and Metro Manila.

The Agencies Collaborating Together with Amerasians and their Families and Communities (ACTWA) said one need not watch the musical Miss Saigon, still playing at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, to know about the plight of these children sired and abandoned by American soldiers stationed in the country since 1902.

"They are in our midst. They remain poor, abandoned and unloved. They only need an audience of fellow Filipinos who will listen to their stories," the ACTWA said in a statement.

Some 140 Amerasians in the country will talk about a "life of continued poverty, racial discrimination and abuse" during the First National Conference of Filipino Amerasians and their Caregivers today and tomorrow at the Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City.

On Friday, at least 50 young Amerasians from Angeles and Olongapo cities began their motorcade to Quezon City from the former Clark Air Base here and Subic Naval Base in Zambales where their fathers were stationed during the Korean and Vietnam wars in the 1950s and the 1960s.

"We will share the discrimination and poverty we have been experiencing so the government could help us overcome these," said Paul Walden Calumpiano, 19.

Most of the Amerasians have been left to the care of their Filipino mothers or adoptive caregivers.

The University of the Philippines Center for Women Studies, through the breakthrough study "Filipino Amerasians: Living in the Margins," has unearthed these startling facts:

- Many Amerasians have experienced various forms of abuse and domestic violence.
- There is an equally disturbing high rate of abuse committed by non-household members. These are racial, gender and class discrimination that Amerasian children and youth suffer from strangers, peers, classmates, teachers, etc.
- For many, the absence of a father, or knowing almost nothing about their father, and being the child of survivors of prostitution carry the additional burden of social stigma and psychological stress that affect their schooling and normal integration into their communities.

Many parents and caregivers of Amerasians harbor biases against their children. Most of them often attribute behavior-related problems to the mixed race character of their children.

- There is a very high incidence of abuse experienced by both Amerasians and their caregivers that seems to indicate the reproduction of violence across generations.
- Many Amerasian teenagers have articulated a "longing for an identity" that seems to be the consequence of growing up without a father.

As a result, there are many cases where abandoned Amerasian youth try to go to the United States to find their fathers.

Gloria, Danding poll war looms in Negros

BY CARLA GOMEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The election battle in Negros Occidental appears to be headed for a fight between the coalition formed by President Macapagal-Arroyo's allies and a local party backed by business tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco, a close ally of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Negros Occidental Gov. Rafael Coscolluela and Ignacio Arroyo, the President's brother-in-law, formed a coalition Wednesday night to challenge the candidates of the United Negros Alliance, a party backed by Cojuangco.

Initially dubbed United Edsa 2, the coalition formed by the Macapagal camp is composed of the Atun Tamdon Utod Negrosanon (ATUN), the Lakas-NUCD-Kampi and the Liberal Party.

The coalition was formed after stalwarts of these political parties held a meeting Wednesday night in Manila.

Those in the meeting were Coscolluela, head of Atun; Arroyo, Lakas-NUCD-Kampi chair for Western Visayas; Negros Occidental Rep. Apolinario Lozada, Lakas-NUCD-Kampi chair in the province; and former Negros Occidental Rep. Manuel Puey, of the LP.

Negros Occidental Rep. Alfredo Marañon, UNA president and Cojuangco ally, said he was not surprised by the creation of the coalition.

He said there had been talks last year that the ATUN and the Lakas-NUCD would combine forces for the May elections.

"If you are a candidate, you cannot choose your opponents. Once you have decided to run, you just work for your victory," Marañon said.

For the gubernatorial post, the fight is between Vice Gov. Romeo Gamboa for the coalition and Sagay Mayor Joseph Marañon for the UNA.

The UNA is fielding Kabankalan Mayor Isidro Zayco as candidate for vice governor while the United Edsa 2 is still looking for a candidate.

Coscolluela said their candidate for vice governor would be chosen from the private sector that participated in People Power 2 in Negros Occidental.

The United Edsa 2 will also field candidates in all six congressional districts in Negros Occidental.

In the first district, the coalition will field businessman-planter Lani Rigor to challenge incumbent Rep. Richard Lacson, UNA secretary general.

In the second district, it will be a fight between board member Richard Lacson of the United Edsa 2 against Representative Marañon.

The coalition will field incumbent Rep. Edith Villanueva for the third district. Marañon said they do not have a candidate for the district yet.

In the fourth district, former La Carlota City Mayor Juancho Aguirre of United Edsa 2 will challenge the reelection bid of Rep. Carlos Cojuangco of the UNA, son of Eduardo Cojuangco.

In the fifth district, Lozada's reelection bid will be challenged by UNA bet Enrique Montilla.

Incumbent Rep. Genero Alvarez of the UNA will face Federico Sala of the United Edsa 2 in the sixth district of Negros Occidental.

Mayon folk refuse to leave danger zones

LEGAZPI CITY—Despite a warning of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology for people to stay away from the six-kilometer permanent danger zone (PDZ) around Mayon Volcano, residents living in the area have refused to leave their homes.

The Phivolcs raised alert level 3 on Mayon on Thursday based on its daily observation of the volcano's continuing unrest and warned villagers living inside the permanent danger zone of a possible eruption of the volcano soon.

Volcanologists predicted that Mayon Volcano would erupt in the last week of January or in early February.

The INQUIRER learned that no evacuation took place in the barangays that were inside the permanent danger zone.

Dr. Manuel Realuyo, Albay Provincial Safety Office (PSO) assistant chief, said preparations for the eruption, including evacuation and relief operations, have already been put in place.

He said PSO chief Cedric Daep had called for a meeting with Albay town mayors before he left for Manila and discussed contingency measures during that meeting.

Realuyo added that the mayors had convened their municipal disaster coordinating councils in preparation for Mayon's possible eruption.

Chief Supt. Marcelo Navarro Jr., Bicol police chief and concurrent Regional Disaster Coordinating Council chair, said his men are on alert for the need to evacuate or rescue people in case Mayon erupts.

During the volcano's eruption in February last year, there was an exodus of residents from their homes inside the danger zone after police, local and military officials forced the villagers' evacuation.

The villagers in the danger zone were forcibly taken to evacuation centers and authorities said they do not want to be caught off-guard when Mayon erupts anytime soon.

The Phivolcs said the six-kilometer danger zone should be off-limits at all times. It said villagers living in homes built near the volcano's gullies should be on a heightened status of alert because these areas would be very dangerous should Mayon erupt.

"Volcanic flows, which may be formed by a sudden explosion, must be anticipated," the Phivolcs added.
Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Why Prebio^1 is important for your toddler's digestive health

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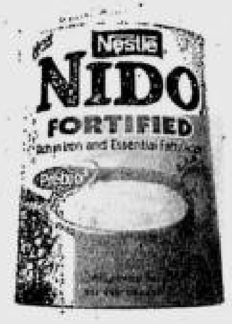

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As a fiber, Prebio^1 also helps build bulk in stools. This way, waste products easily pass through the intestines, preventing constipation,

What are the benefits of Prebio^1?
The most important benefit that your child will get from Prebio^1 is that she will have a stronger and healthier digestive system. This means that your child will be better able to utilize and absorb the nutrients she takes in. What's more, she will be less likely to suffer from diarrhea and other gastrointestinal problems that are common among children her age.

Is there a special age when children need Prebio^1?
Children of any age can and should take Prebio^1. However, the age group which would benefit the most from Prebio^1 are toddlers or children aged one year onwards.

These kids love to explore and move around, touching and tasting anything they can lay their hands on. Thus, they face more risk of exposure to unfriendly microorganisms that often leads to diarrhea and other gastrointestinal disorders.

How often should your child drink New NIDO FORTIFIED in order to have enough Prebio^1 in her system?
Your child should drink New NIDO FORTIFIED everyday. This way, she will have a constant supply of Prebio^1 to stimulate the growth of friendly microorganisms in her gut. The end result is a stronger and healthier digestive system for your child.

What other good changes could parents expect after their child has tried New NIDO FORTIFIED with Prebio^1?
Children that have been drinking New NIDO FORTIFIED tend to have softer stools because of their improved bowel system. With regular and healthy bowel movements, children will be more active and happy.

What other special nutrients are present in New NIDO FORTIFIED?
New NIDO FORTIFIED is also rich in Iron and Essential Fatty Acids or EFA for optimum brain development. These special nutrients help keep your child's brain and nerve tissues well nourished.

FRIENDS OF GMA

Gloria group savors victory

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—When President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was being sworn in as the 14th president of the Republic, who could have been more euphoric than members of a small progressive group here who were tapped to run a campaign vehicle for her then vice presidential bid.

The Kaibigan ni Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (KGMA) movement, a political arm composed of former non-government organization workers, was relatively low-key.

Its goal is to prop Ms Macapagal's march to the vice presidential post in 1998. The movement was put up in key provinces nationwide.

"We are as jubilant because of her assumption to the presidency. She has always wanted to become president. We know this was her calling," said Edna de la Cruz-Maraña, KGMA-Ilocos Norte coordinator.

The rest of the Ilocanos here might just as well rejoice that another Ilocana-at-heart has occupied Malacañang.

Ms Macapagal also traces her roots to Bacarra, Ilocos Norte, where relatives of her mother, Dr. Evangelina Macaraeg-Macapagal, live.

Ms Macapagal speaks good Ilokano (and understands the language well) that she could probably even outdo the children of Ilocandia's favorite son Ferdinand Marcos in a speaking contest.

Although Ms Macapagal (with 97,349 votes) won over ousted President Joseph Estrada's running mate Edgardo Angara (81,746 votes) by a lead of more than 15,000 votes, it was clear that Ilocos Norte was also an "Erap country" with the ousted President mustering 146,900 votes in 1998.

Estrada's provincial votes came second to Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.'s which was recorded at 173,810.

But Maraña said there could have been no other national candidate who has frequented Ilocos Norte than Ms Macapagal.

She was said to be compassionate with the indigenous peoples.

Her late father, former President Diosdado Macapagal, was the first (if not the only) President who had set foot on Fuga Island—a small, neglected island-community at the boundary of Cagayan where indigenous peoples live.

"She had always wanted to visit Fuga Island, too. Many times she had arranged to go to Adams, Ilocos Norte (where indigenous peoples also reside)," Maraña said.

But while she never got to fulfill her desire to go to these areas, Ms Macapagal was always positive on any request from indigenous groups, she added.

Two students who are natives of Fuga Island went to college with scholarships from Ms Macapagal.

Having had an extensive experience with a human rights group, Maraña recalled that she joined KGMA with cynicism because she was mindful of then Ms Macapagal's position on globalization and trade liberalization.

Four years before she joined Ms Macapagal's campaign, Maraña used to teach at a government-run university and would always popularize in her classes the adverse impact of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) on the country's agriculture.

Ms Macapagal was among those who voted for the GATT bill in the Senate.

It was Edgardo Manda, then chief of staff of the senator, who convinced her that while Ms Macapagal had strongly pushed for the opening of trade barriers, she had also ensured the protection of local products through various safety nets.

It was equally comforting that Manda, now general manager of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, projected to mean serious business when he first called a meeting among prospective KGMA coordinators to map out Ms Macapagal's strength in the region.

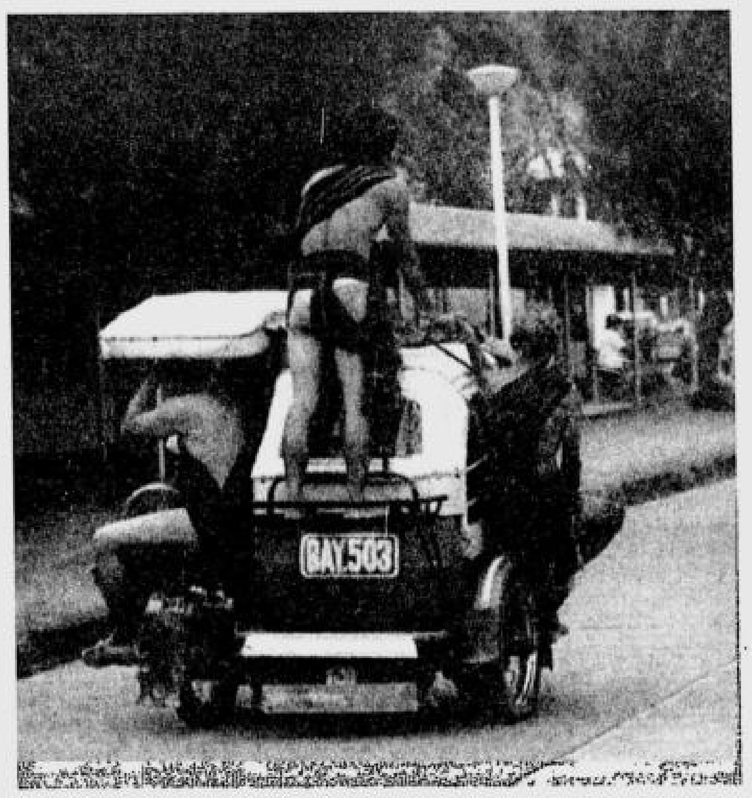
Maraña said all meetings were done under strict conditions.

"There were no drinking sessions even after we have laid down initial plans," she said.

Ms Macapagal has made history herself by becoming the beneficiary of another people power uprising in 15 years.

"We saw it coming. It was just a matter of time. It was as if it was programmed to happen that way. Whatever desire she had before to become President has now materialized," Maraña said.

"Her decision to slide down from the presidential campaign (in 1998) was a humbling experience for her. She humbled herself, now she is exulted."



JOY RIDE

BEN MOSES EBREO

It was sure to attract attention—a group of Ifugao men in their native clothes packed in a tricycle—but it was the fastest ride to a recent parade in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya.

Anti-Estrada priest dies of heart attack

By Lino Parone Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Redemptorist superior Fr. Luis "Louie" Hechanova, a human rights advocate, died on Thursday of a heart attack. He was 61.

He died in the Redemptorist convent in Baclaran, Metro Manila where he was attending a series of meetings. He was found unconscious, slumped in the convent's telephone booth at 3 a.m.

It was his second heart attack.

"He was calling his brother who's a doctor, telling him that he was feeling pain in his chest, then he collapsed," said Fr. Edwin Bacaltos CssR.

The brother was able to call an ambulance but medical personnel failed to revive Hechanova at the Makati Medical Center where he was pronounced dead at 4 a.m.

His death jolted colleagues and friends who joined him as he celebrated a thanksgiving Mass of the Barug Sugbo here after President Joseph Estrada was ousted by People Power 2.

Hechanova, a robust priest, was at the forefront of protests against Estrada and the Marcos dictatorship.

Soon after news of his death broke, his friends went to the Redemptorist Formation House to offer Masses and prayers and to ask for more information on his death.

Hechanova celebrated his 61st birthday on Jan. 24, a day before he died. He spent his birthday with his family in Manila. A day before his birthday, he had a get-together with fellow priests at the Holy Family Retreat House where he lived.

His body will be brought to Cebu City tomorrow for a three-night wake at the Redemptorist Church in Cebu. Family members will bring his body home to Jaro, Iloilo City on Jan. 31 for burial on Saturday, Feb. 3.

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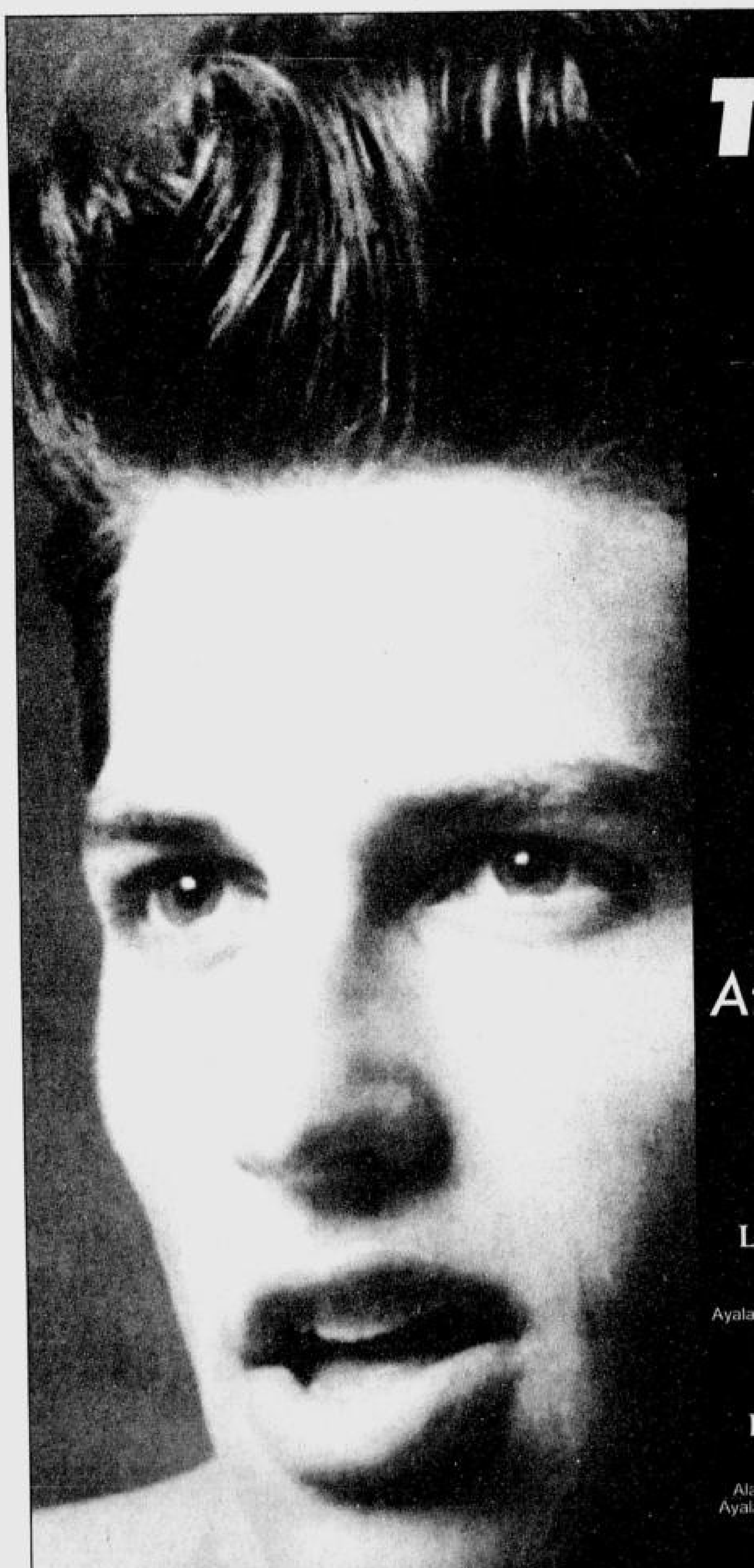

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INQUIRER Visayas
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ EDRALYN L. BENEDICTO, Bureau Chief

People Power moves South

HAPPY faces in a Bacolod rally do not diminish the seriousness of People Power's task—unseat an unwanted President. CARLA GOMEZ

VISAYANS did not watch on the sidelines as they did during the first People Power revolt in 1986. They may not be among the warm bodies on Edsa and their number may not run to the hundreds of thousands, but they, too, were in the streets, and in their parks and plazas.

They came out just minutes after 11 senators cast their now infamous vote to stop the use of a second set of bank documents as evidence in the impeachment trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Their number grew until Jan. 20, when President Estrada was forced out of Malacañang.

And like those who went to Edsa, the Cebuanos, Ilonggos (in Iloilo and Bacolod), Dumagueteños, Boholanos, Capiceños, Aklanons, Antiqueños, Leyteños and Warays were propelled to the streets by their rage against and disgust for those who tried to deny them the truth,

No politicians led them on the streets in the dead of the night. There were no police or military colonels or generals, retired or otherwise, orchestrating their moves. Neither was there any military officer "waiting" for a cue from Lt. Gen. Edgardo Espinosa to announce their withdrawal of support from the Estrada administration.

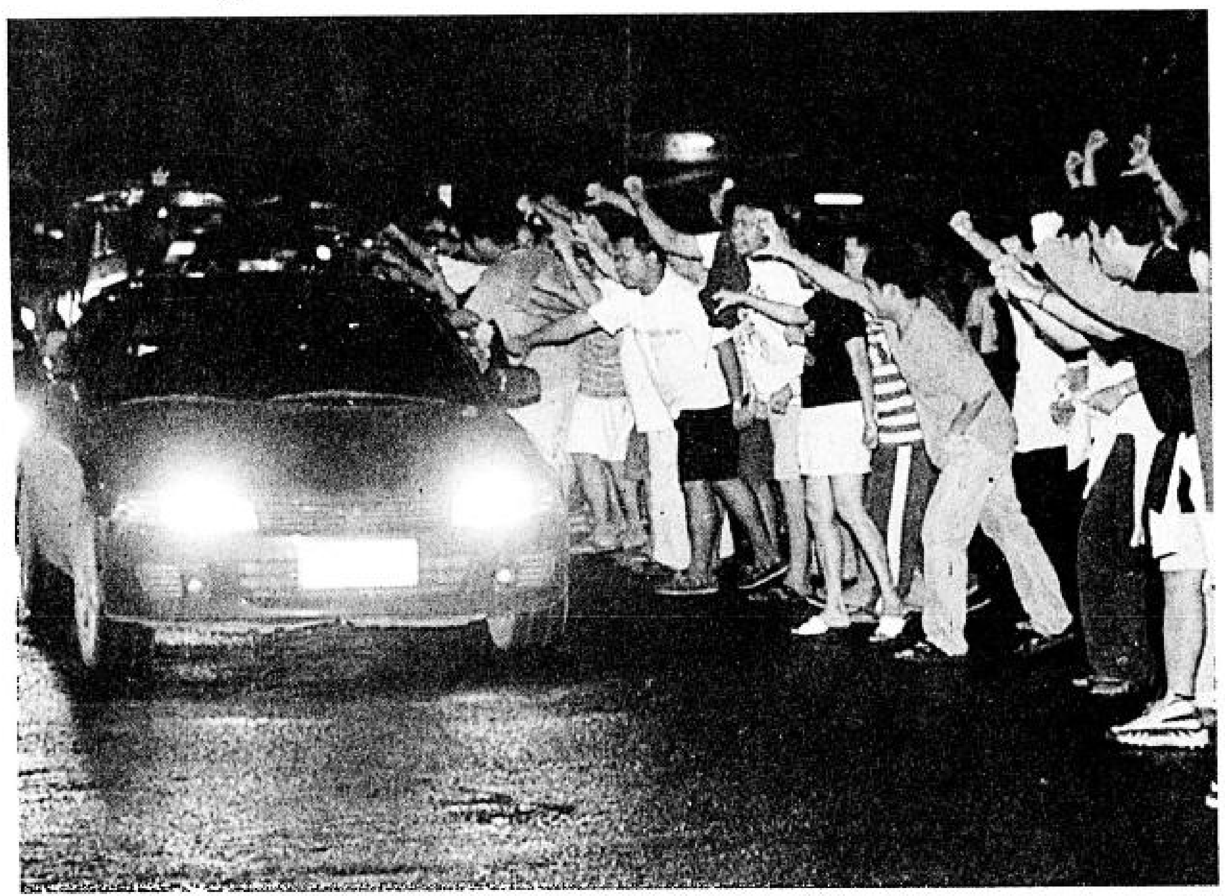
Let's set the record straight: Rear Admiral Napoleon Baylon, commander of the Visayas Command, was not even in Camp Lapulapu on Jan. 19, Friday, when Armed Forces Gen. Angelo Reyes and his retinue of generals went to Edsa. He was in a "civic-military" activity on Camotes Island in the northern tip of Cebu. And when Baylon finally arrived in Camp Lapulapu at 8 p.m., he told the waiting Cebu media that he had talked by phone with Reyes and had assured him that the entire Viscom was behind Reyes.

There was no mention of Espinosa.

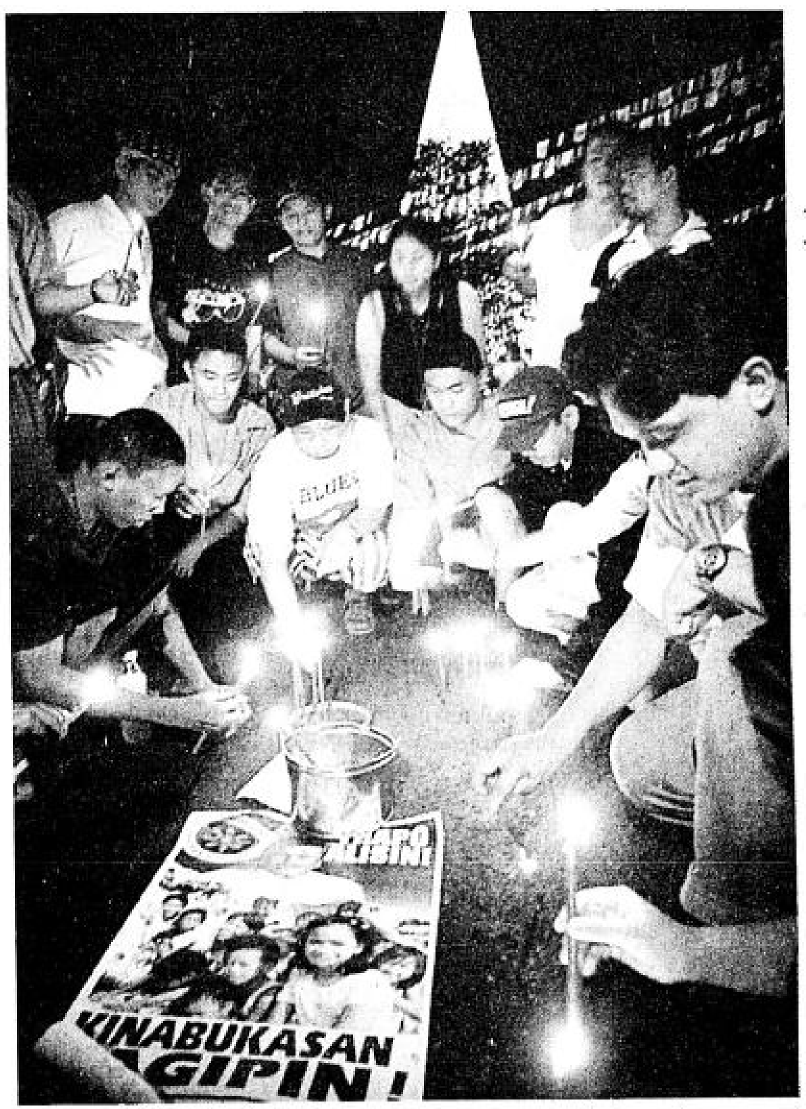
Chief Supt. Tiburcio Fusillero, the Central Visayas police director, was also identified by leaders of the Council of Philippine Affairs (Copa) in a TV show as their conduit in the Visayas.

The PDI Visayas Bureau knows that he had no plans to defect to the People Power side. He did so only after he talked on the phone with his "mistah," Director Gen. Panfilo Lacson some 30 minutes before Lacson went on air to also withdraw his support from Mr. Estrada.

A number of those who showed up at the Fuente Osmeña Park in Cebu and at the public plaza of Bacolod close to midnight of Jan. 16 and shouted "Erap resign!" were not even participants in the anti-Estrada protest rallies. They were young professionals, students and ordinary citizens, responding to text messages to express their outrage over the outcome of the trial they faithfully watched on TV.



THE NOISE on a Cebu City street during a noise campaign last week wasn't enough to drown out the anger of protesters at an administration that bled the country dry. ARLENE SOLIS CHUA



REDUCING the darkness of the night and the country's future under a corrupt leader through prayers and candles during a vigil in Cebu City. ARLENE SOLIS CHUA

Mr. Arroyo, the First Spouse

LUCID

Rowena

WHEN some friends did not want to join the protest on Edsa because they did not think now President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would do better, I argued that Gloria was not the issue, Erap was. She is competent, and best of all she is a woman.

I'll take a woman president anytime. Women have to clean up the mess that men make in this country. But when the proud, beaming, smiling, face of Miguel Arroyo almost leaped out of the TV set, they asked me in jest what we should do with the first husband now. After the celebrations, the president must be asking the same question.

A lot of people are commenting on presidential appointments, but I prefer to write about the one person who will never get kicked out of his job, the one and only husband of Gloria Macapagal, Jose Miguel Arroyo, First Spouse. He is, after all, from Negros Occidental, and we want to be proud of him.

He is not the first Ilonggo to be in the limelight because of his closeness to the seat of power. Guia Guanzon Gomez, the "second lady," is from Bacolod. Ms. Ming Ramos is from Iloilo. You gotta give it to us. If the Ilonggos cannot be president, they will marry someone who will be. The arrogant male Ilonggos will say, without offense to the presidents, that the idea is to "*mejorar la raza* (to improve the race)."

I think it's really the other way around, but if friends of Mike Arroyo will say that, as an Ilonggo he will add "style" to Malacañang, I say, "yes, your honor."

Mr. Arroyo is making history as the first male spouse of a president, but he could do more than just be lucky that Gloria married him. The sooner he gets rid of those incorrect cliches—"power behind the throne"—the better. If he ever, for a minute, believes that he should be the "man of the house" he will have a problem. These are issues the first ladies didn't have to deal with. Given our culture and their professional backgrounds, they were quite content with the traditional role of first ladies, giving their husbands emotional support, and doing mostly charity work.

Ms. Ming Ramos, an educator, did well as an advocate of the environment and helped clean up the Pasig River.

But none of the first ladies ever advocated women's rights. Now, we don't expect Mike Arroyo to do that, but he could help. These days women's rights advocacy is getting stronger, and women's groups and women did play a big part in "People Power 2."

Gender sensitivity should therefore be one of the first baby words of Mr. Arroyo. We cannot predict what Mr. Arroyo wants to make of himself as the First Spouse, but the first thing he should not do is not to be macho.

Mr. Arroyo, there is no telling what women in this country will do. Remember all those funny things they said about the private parts of Erap, Enrile and Gringo on Edsa?

The people didn't have a "First Husband" during President Cory Aquino's time, so it is understandable that there is a demand for a proper, honest, and useful First Spouse. So the Office of the First Spouse has to do a good job on Mr. Arroyo, not that they will have a hard time. He looks friendly, neat, gentle, gracious, not too busy. Although he could lose a few pounds, if he doesn't want to be called in text messages "chubby hubby."

> 'Mr. Arroyo is making history as the first male spouse of a president, but he could do more than just be lucky that Gloria married him.'

I like what he said about giving President GMA hugs when she's down. We have to assume he has very good manners (he has to or Negrenses will disown him) for a start, and let's hope he does not have his own Kitchen Cabinet.

He is not *pikon*. No sooner has GMA taken her oath when the text messages warning the public that Mike Arroyo is corrupt started. Just as it was meant to, the message reached Mr. Arroyo, who answered in a newspaper, straight to the point, that he is not corrupt. The only way to avoid all that is very simple. The First Spouse should stay away from any—and I mean any—transaction in government.

It is not enough that Mr. Arroyo is honest, the people must perceive that he is honest, like "Ceasar's wife" (there you go Mr. Arroyo, these sayings about women will be applied to you). After the protests against the many enterprising mistresses of President Estrada, Mr. Arroyo's friends could do him a favor by not asking him for favors. It is a lonely place to be, being powerful but honest. But that is the only place for the First Spouse. But think of all those parties!

Ms. Ming Ramos advocated a clean environment. Dr. Loi Ejercito went on medical missions. Mr. Arroyo's first interest is to fight crime as a citizen. So my friends are asking, "so who's going to do the charity work?"

We have, my friends, a male First Spouse. He has a right to do what he enjoys doing, and what he believes in, as long as he can make a contribution to Philippine society. But just as he should know how to be present, he should also know when to be absent or when to be quiet.

But seriously, Mr. Arroyo, government has many law enforcement agencies, and if they are doing their job the First Spouse need not be a member of any organization for the crime rate to go down in this country.

But if he can help with the garbage problem—there's a piece of real work.

Devotees give all to keep faith in Sto. Niño

BY JOSELITO COSTAS
Cebu City

ON APRIL 28, 1565, 44 years after explorer Ferdinand Magellan was killed in Mactan, another expedition led by Basque aristocrat Miguel Lopez de Legaspi arrived in Cebu. It was said that the landing was staged in blitzkrieg fashion to ward off hostile natives. The whole town was torched, although some sources are still asking who started the fire.

The remaining shacks were searched thoroughly for anything of value after the natives retreated to the hills. In one hut, the soldiers found a chest bound with a cord. In it was another box containing a statuette clad in velvet with a red cap on its head. The image, obviously well preserved, and therefore treated with respect, was that of the Sto. Niño, now reckoned to be the most valuable symbol in Philippine Christendom.

"Miguel Lopez de Legaspi easily identified the image. As a devotee of Sto. Niño before joining the Marines, he was sure that the statuette was of European origin, an effigy of the Holy Child," says Fr. Ambrosio Galindez, OSA, vice rector of the Basilica Minore del Sto. Niño where the image is enshrined since 1740.

Father Galindez says Legazpi was the president of the Cofradia del Sto. Niño in Mexico, a confederation of devotees who practice sincerely their faith, receive frequently the Holy Sacraments and do charitable work and apostolate.

Legazpi ordered immediately that a chapel be built to enthrone the image at the exact spot where the image of the Sto. Niño was found. The bamboo and nipa structure, the first church built in the country, was later referred to by both Spaniards and natives alike as "Sto. Niño," addressing both image and building. Several structures were built and rebuilt in succession over the years as several fires destroyed them. Work on the present church and the monastery started in 1730. On

DEVOTEES/P.A15

Devotees give all to keep faith in Sto. Niño

(From page A14)

Jan. 16, 1740, the image was finally enthroned in its shrine.

"A few weeks after the consecration, Legazpi established the first Cofradia del Sto. Niño in Cebu and eventually in the whole archipelago with some of his converted soldiers as pioneer members. The formal Christianization of the Philippines had begun," Father Galindez says.

Devotion

The Cofradia del Sto. Niño oversees the image's upkeep and propagates devotion to Sto. Niño among individuals, families, parishes and even international communities. It doesn't only nurture spiritual growth, it also takes care of society's needs since the group says it works for everybody's welfare.

Today, the Cofradia has several chapters all over the country and in some parts of the world counting thousands of members.

If the Sto. Niño wields a strong influence among Catholics, it is because the devotion binds families and bridges generations, like the intimate bond that keeps together the Sto. Niño image and its community of believers.

Jose Gullas, 66, owner of the University of the Visayas and a Cofradia member, was a 10-year-old acolyte when he started his devotion to the Sto. Niño after the Second World War.

His grandparents and parents were all devotees and generously contributed much of their time and treasure to the church. He remembers fondly how his grandfather, the late Juan Riviera, bought from Spain the icon of Sto. Cristo de Limpio that is still revered to this day.

"Our generation (is) following all the commitments of my grandparents and my parents," he says during an interview at the pilgrim's center while attending this year's four-day novena Mass, which started on Jan. 10.

His devotion has saved him from what he calls "processes of death," while his brother, Cebu Rep. Eduardo Gullas, also a devotee, has survived cancer. "That alone will show the miracle of the Sto. Niño."

As a testament to the Gullas family's devotion, it has given the Basilica del Sto. Niño a museum that keeps vestiges of Augustinian history in the Philippines.

The collection, housed below the pilgrim's center, includes a 19th century pig skin-covered Book of Masses, an 1870 Roman Breviary, missal stands, a silver crucifix and a papal tiara. It has also on display a pilgrim replica of the Sto. Niño specially crafted on the occasion of the Philippines' quadricentennial celebration of Christianization in 1965.

More miracles

Another Cofradia member is Elizabeth Amora, a 73-year-old widow, whose unwavering love for the Sto. Niño has made herself and her family happy for more than forty years.

Amora was the only devotee in a brood of twelve and was only 10 years old when her mother was diagnosed with goiter. War was imminent and medical science advances were unheard of. By 1941, the disease had spread to the brain.

"I asked my mother if we could go back to Cebu to ask for (the) Sto. Niño's intercession," she says. Her mother was obliged to go with her devotee daughter all the way from Tubigon, Bohol. Their prayers were answered. She lived for another 10 years.

After her mother's death, Amora returned to Cebu, served in the church and got married. Most of her children are now Cofradia members: Lorna, 46, a nurse based in Dusseldorf, Germany is chapter president; Rosalinda, 45, works at the Basilica Rectory; Agusan-based Virginia, 41, is an annual devotee pilgrim and Boying, 32, is a lay minister who, at age 10, was the youngest Cofradia member.

Cofradia members also devote much of their profession doing charitable work.

Lea Gamutan, 60, is a nurse at the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center in Cebu City. She helps run the basilica clinic together with other volunteer nurses and doctors especially on Fridays when they conduct free clinics. It is a charitable act which, she says, stemmed from her devotion that started in the 1950s as a nursing student from Misamis Occidental.

"It was to enlighten my mind, I was alone in the city," she remembers. "*Mao na karon, bisag tuwad-tuwaron pa, hugot gyud ang among debosyon sa* Sto. Niño (Now, whichever way you look at us, we are still deeply committed to the Sto. Niño)," she says.

Her petition was granted late last year when the government did not push through with its plan of getting a chunk of her valuable piece of property appropriated for a road-widening project.

Testimony to the miracles granted by the Sto. Niño is endless.

Through the basilica's doors everyday comes and goes a sea of humanity, people rich with stories and prayers, people who have child-like innocence and hearts that beat only for Sto. Niño.

'Love at 1st sight' for First Couple

By Carla Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—"I fell in love with her disarming smile and beautiful eyes. It was love at first sight."

That was how First Spouse Jose Miguel "Mike" Tuason Arroyo, 54, described his first meeting with his wife, now President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, in December 1962.

He was 14 and she was 13 when they first met on Dec. 26, 1962 at a party organized by his cousin Patty Araneta at the summer home of the late Elvira Manahan in Baguio City.

He was a fourth year high school student of the Ateneo de Manila and drove a Masaratti sports car (what can be the equivalent now of BMW Z3.)

She was a junior high school at the Assumption College and the daughter of Diosdado Macapagal on vacation at the presidential summer palace.

'Bakod'

Mr. Arroyo recalled using the "*bakod* tactic" in courting her—meaning that at "a dance you stand in front of the girl you like so nobody else will dance with her."

After that first meeting, they met everyday for the rest of their Christmas vacation in December of 1962. He even continued to visit her when they returned to Manila.

They continued seeing each other after Ms Macapagal graduated from high school. When she left for the United States to study at Georgetown University in Washington D.C., they continued to communicate by writing letters to each other.

Ms Macapagal and Mr. Arroyo met again in Baguio in 1965 when she came home from the United States for the Christmas break.

Steadies

At that time, he was already 18 and she, 17. He recalled that it was at the presidential summer palace where he asked her if they could go steady.

"She did not answer me right away, I had to wait until New Year for her yes," Mr. Arroyo recalled.

He said she returned to the United States for further studies and for two to three years they wrote to each other every other day. He said the letters were delayed by two weeks but at least they kept coming.

When she finally returned to the Philippines in 1968, he asked her to stay and marry him because, he said, the long distance call bills were getting so expensive and he could not afford them anymore.

Ms Macapagal accepted his proposal and they got married on the same year at the Sanctuario de San Antonio Church in Forbes Park.

At that time, Mr. Arroyo was a freshman in law school at Ateneo de Manila University. Ms. Macapagal took a master's degree in economics in the same university.

Union

The union produced three children: Mikey, now 31, an actor and an aspiring politician; Luli, 29, who works for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Foundation; and Dato, 26, a law student, also at the Ateneo.

With the new role bestowed to his wife through People Power II, Mr. Arroyo expects their life to change.

But he said, "I will remain in the background, as a supportive and low profile husband of the President."

But there is one thing, which Mr. Arroyo hopes he would not have to give up—his passion for photography.

Among his favorite subjects is his wife, probably to preserve moments when they are together, rare now that they are both busy.

Mr. Arroyo takes pride in his past works—official pictures of his wife.

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Opposition to Abadia appointment mounts

(From page A1)

Abadia was reportedly barred yesterday morning from entering Fort Bonifacio, headquarters of the Philippine Army, "on orders of Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes," according to Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

"If that is true, it's a bad sign. It's an ominous signal that things are not that well even among the ranks of her (President Macapagal) supporters in the Armed Forces," Pimentel said.

But an aide of Abadia said he was with him the whole day and that at no instance was Abadia barred from entering Fort Bonifacio where he has resided even after retirement in 1994.

A member of his household said that the former Armed Forces chief went home about 3 p.m. yesterday and left after some time.

The Philippine Army also denied that Abadia was prevented from entering the camp. The same claim was made by the headquarters of the Philippine Marines.

At 7:30 p.m., Abadia was in a closed-door conference inside the compound of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency in Quezon City, which serves as the office of the National Security Adviser. An aide said Abadia could not be disturbed.

RSBS scam

Pimentel criticized the appointment of Abadia because of his involvement in the Retirement and Separation Benefits System (RSBS)scam.

Orlando Mercado quit his post as defense secretary last Thursday following the appointment of Abadia.

"How can I serve in the Cabinet with a national security adviser when it was I who instigated the investigation against him?"

Pimentel recalled that "Mr. Abadia was recommended for indictment by the Senate blue ribbon committee and I think that it is important for the President to ask those who she is trying to appoint to clear themselves first of the charges, otherwise we have the spectacle of appointees occupying high positions in government who are facing serious charges which affect not only their ability to discharge their duties but their integrity and thereby their credibility also."

Pimentel chaired the Senate blue ribbon committee which recommended to the Ombudsman the prosecution of Abadia.

Mercado had ordered the investigation of the alleged investments of the soldiers' pension funds in multi-million projects identified with Abadia and other RSBS officials. Abadia as the then AFP chief of staff was also the RSBS chair.

The Office of the Ombudsman cleared Abadia and other RSBS officials after giving weight to Abadia's defense that the RSBS was a private fund.

On Mercado's order, the case was elevated to the Supreme Court where it is still pending.

Question of integrity

"It's a question of propriety. People who are being charged by an equal branch of government would just be getting high positions as if nothing has happened in their lives that affect their integrity and credibility," Pimentel said.

Supporting Pimentel's sentiment, Sen. Raul Roco said there is "merit" in taking a second look at Abadia's appointment.

"I think there is merit there and I understand that is being looked at," said Roco, a last-term senator who was appointed education secretary.

Pimentel said Ms Macapagal should ask her prospective appointees to clear their names first before they are appointed to high places.

Pimentel was in Malacañang yesterday and had a meeting with Ms Macapagal together with Speaker Feliciano Belmonte.

"I understand that General Abadia was prevented from entering Fort Bonifacio this morning upon orders of Gen. Angelo Reyes," Pimentel said.

This "war of the generals," Pimentel said, is an "ominous sign"of a break-up of the massive support from various sectors including the military.

Pimentel said if this quarrel deteriorates, it could bring about a "breakup of the base of support that she has."

"I hope it does not happen this early or at all," Pimentel said.

"I would hate to give her any advice but you know dissention in the ranks of the military will be the last thing she will need. So the earlier the problems are resolved the better for her administration," Pimentel added.

Pimentel said that aside from the word war among her military supporters, the criticisms from various sectors about the appointments are a cause for concern.

"I don't now if the honeymoon is still there because there are demonstrations already," Pimentel said. ***With a report from Carlito Pablo***

ALL the President's men line up for a souvenir shot after their oath-taking on Friday. Among them are Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo, Executive Secretary Renato de Villa, DSWD Secretary Dinky Soliman, PMS chief Vicky Garchitorena, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos and acting Press Secretary Noel Cabrera.

DENNIS SABANGAN

Roxas back at trade; RM Jr. rejects DND

(From page A1)

curity Adviser Lisandro Abadia, had to complete certain "chores" elsewhere before being sworn in as Cabinet members.

Avelino Cruz Jr., the President's chief legal counsel, told reporters that Abadia would be sworn in as soon as his appointment papers were completed.

The new Cabinet members pledged to be honest and to maintain a "simple lifestyle" in the course of performing their duties.

After Gloria

Roxas resigned as trade secretary last Nov. 1, barely a month after Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson went public with his jueteng exposé against Estrada. A source close to Roxas said he accepted the appointment to his old position after talking to the President yesterday.

His resignation came after that of then Vice President Macapagal, who gave up the social welfare portfolio late in October. Uriarte resigned next.

Ms Macapagal has yet to name her vice president, as well as the secretaries of agriculture, agrarian reform, environment and labor.

Renato Corona, Ms Macapagal's spokesperson and chief of staff, will be sworn in as soon as he winds up things at the Office of the Vice President, where he was earlier detailed.

Commenting on the call of the Crusade Against Violence led by Carina Agarao for the relief of Deputy Director General Leandro Mendoza, the newly appointed chief of the Philippine National Police, De Villa said: "There is a policy issue here. When the President decides on something, we cannot allow anybody to veto it.

"And if there is no satisfaction except for the relief of the incumbent without due course—meaning investigation after formal charges and all that—then I am sorry to say that this is something that cannot be allowed to happen."

Agarao had accused Mendoza of allowing the killer of her husband, lawyer Clarence Agarao, to escape.

But De Villa said that if Ms Macapagal reversed her decision and decided to relieve Mendoza just because of Agarao's accusation, this would set a "dangerous precedent."

Happy

Señeres said De Villa offered the top labor post during the executive committee meeting of the Reporma party in Makati City early this week, at which the executive secretary also announced his endorsement.

"De Villa gave me an offer. But I just can't accept it. I told him I'm happy where I am now. I know I am able to help our countrymen through the NLRC," said Señeres, a former ambassador to the United Arab Emirates.

The NLRC, a component of the labor department, serves as arbiter in labor disputes.

. But Señeres told the INQUIRER that among the primary reasons why he declined the post was that he did not want to join "a Cabinet composed of people with a very bad public image."

"Last week, the Cabinet was faceless. Now it has a face, an ugly one, because of National Security Adviser Lisandro Abadia," he said. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

Señeres said the "bad public image" was actually "destructive to the Macapagal administration."

He also cited Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, PNP chief Mendoza, and former President Fidel Ramos, whom Ms Macapagal had named "special envoy."

"It's a bad idea to put Abadia (in the Cabinet). He has a case of malversation of pension funds at the Armed Forces. He should do the President a favor by resigning," Señeres said.

Mercado likewise cited Abadia's appointment as his reason for resigning.

Señeres said Mendoza "also has his own share of serious unsettled cases."

"Gordon, for his part, is still salivating to regain the chairmanship of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority. So how can he focus on his new job?" Señeres said.

He noted that Ramos had been implicated in irregularities such as the PEA-Amari land deal and the Expo Filipino project and, thus, "should not make himself too visible."

"Those who have very bad images should not diplay themselves. *Nakakasuklam* (It's disgusting)," Señeres said.

Good background

Magsaysay told defense reporters that Golez was "a good man with a good background on defense and military affairs."

"He has the bearing, and most of all, the integrity," the senator added.

At the start of the Estrada administration in 1998, Magsaysay expressed his desire for the top defense post. He cited the public service record of his father, the late President Ramon Magsaysay, who was defense secretary before he was elected to Malacañang.

Explaining his change of heart, Magsaysay said: "That was my sentimental feeling at that time. But I have been checking with retired military officers and even those in the active service, and I found out that the work is too complex to handle."

Magsaysay is running for reelection in the May 14 polls.

Magsaysay and Golez quit the ruling coalition on the same day last October as an offshoot of Singson's exposé.

Standards

The new Cabinet members pledged to discharge their duties and responsibilities according to these standards:

- Trustworthiness ("I believe that public service is a public trust").
- Results orientation ("The true measure of good governance is improvement in the lives of the people").
- Poverty focus ("Those who have less in life must have more in service and development assistance").
- Citizen empowerment and participation ("I believe in genuine, responsible democracy").
- Constituency feedback ("I believe in listening to and learning from those whom I serve").
- Continuous improvement ("Excellence in public service is possible only in a culture of continuous improvement").
- Respect for others ("Good government is the product of good-hearted persons giving their best for the greater welfare of their countrymen").
- Simple lifestyle ("My personal integrity cannot be compromised").

According to Press Undersecretary Roberto Capco, all Cabinet members are to sign a covenant that will serve as the "moral compass" of the Macapagal administration.

Macapagal defends the 'Gloria team'

(From page A1)

bers was almost universal. It was only yesterday that I started getting the criticisms about so many congressmen in the Cabinet, and that's why I felt I had to answer it," she said at the signing ceremonies for the Solid Waste Management Act of 2001.

Ms Macapagal said her appointment of Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong as public works secretary was a result of her intent to have Mindanao represented in her Cabinet.

"This has been the clamor of that long-neglected island, and they don't want token positions in the Cabinet, they want positions that really count. And for Mindanao, the positions that really count are the infrastructure agencies," she said.

But she was silent on the appointment of "old faces," mostly officials of former President Fidel Ramos.

Asked to comment on the accusation that the President had been recycling "old politicians," Executive Secretary Renato de Villa said: "I am recycled, I know. But I don't know if I'm a politician or an old politician."

De Villa, who served as Ramos' defense secretary, denied that Ms Macapagal was a "puppet President" or that she had been repaying political debts by appointing "Ramos boys."

"I cannot speak for former President Ramos. But I assure you that this team we are forming is a Gloria team all the way through. This is nobody else's team but President Macapagal's," De Villa said.

"If there are any connections with any one of them, (or) with former President Ramos, that is incidental," he added.

Copa

In a statement, the Council on Philippine Affairs sought to clarify that it was not jockeying for positions for its members.

Copa said it called the media conference on Jan. 24 "in order to ensure that those who really contributed to the events that led to People Power II and the removal of Estrada are properly credited," and "not necessarily to be rewarded."

It expressed concern that "already, history is being rewritten," and that "Johnny-come-latelies are now parading themselves as the heroes of People Power II."

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines backed the view of the MBC and other groups that Ms Macapagal owed her presidency to the intervention of not so much the traditional politicians as the people.

Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, CBCP president, said delegates to the recent National Pastoral Consultation on Church Renewal (NPCCR) had discussed the participation in People Power II of the poor, who massed not only on Edsa but also in dioceses outside Metro Manila.

He said that "in the various dioceses of the Philippines, it was the poor that played a major role in actively demanding the resignation of the former President (Joseph Estrada) and in taking up the protests in the streets."

Quevedo also pointed out that the poor took to the streets when Estrada's impeachment trial "became obviously farcical at the expense of truth."

He said that "unlike Edsa I, there were Edsas in the various dioceses outside Manila, and it was the poor that made up the bulk of protest groups."

The Cotabato archbishop said that during the deliberations of the NPCCR, no acknowledgement was made of the role of traditional politicians in the success of People Power II.

The consultative assembly was attended by most of the country's 80 or so archbishops and bishops, as well as priests, nuns and lay workers.

It was organized to review the Church's political and socio-moral policies, as stated in the declarations of the Second Plenary Council of the Philippines (PCP-II) 10 years ago.

The PCP II paved the way for the Church's intensified political and social intervention.

Osmeña

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III told the INQUIRER in Cebu City that the new appointments in the Cabinet and elsewhere were "a mismatch of competence and posts."

Osmeña did not name names, but when the INQUIRER raised the name of lawyer Winston Garcia, he admitted to some reservations over the latter's appointment.

According to the senator, Garcia is not qualified to be president and general manager of the Government Service Insurance and System because he has no background on pension plan management and even on banking and finance.

"(Garcia) is a good lawyer, so he should have gone to another pension that involves law," Osmeña said in a phone interview.

Asked if Garcia was appointed because of Lito Osmeña's political connections, the senator said yes.

Lito, the senator's cousin, is chair of Promdi, one of the political parties comprising the United Opposition.

When pressed to name other names, the senator said: "I don't want to contribute further destabilization."

He said he had already aired his views to Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo and other advisers of the President in private conversations.

Senate Pro Tempore Blas Ople said that except for Datumanong, the appointees were traditional politicians and persons with vested interests.

He said Ramos' "thumbprints" were on the new Cabinet.

Ople also said that the appointees would go through the "eye of the needle" at the bicameral Commission on Appointments, and that they would have to wait for the 12th Congress to be confirmed as the deadline for confirmation had lapsed.

"This will really look like an acting administration because of certain opinions that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is only acting President, and her Cabinet officials would serve also in an acting capacity," Ople said.

Pamalakaya

Rodolfo Sambajon, chair of the militant group of fisherfolk Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas, said Malacañang was so preoccupied with filling the Cabinet with traditional politicians that the new administration's agenda on the issues affecting the poor had not been made clear.

"The President has been wittingly allowing old faces and Jurassic practitioners of traditional politics to join her Cabinet. There are pressing issues confronting our people that she should address, rather than accede to requests of position-starved politicians," Sambajon said.

He said these issues were land reform, wages, oil prices and mass housing.

He reminded Ms Macapagal that the poor kept vigil at the Edsa Shrine last week not only to demand Estrada's resignation but more to seek meaningful reforms in government.

"President Macapagal must reciprocate by promoting the welfare of Filipinos rather than playing the *trapos'* game," he said. ***With reports from Norman Bordadora and Gerald Lacuarta in Manila; Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Garbage management act . . .

(From page A1)

around Metro Manila had been identified to provide a short-term solution to the garbage problem.

Abalos said the areas would be used "in the next few days" as "practically all" had the consent of local government.

He declined to identify the sites.

The Supreme Court has restrained the MMDA from dumping garbage in San Mateo, Rizal.

The San Mateo landfill closed on Dec. 31 last year, but then President Joseph Estrada ordered it reopened on Jan. 11 after residents of Semirara Island in Antique protested the dumping of trash in the environmental sanctuary near the resort island of Boracay.

Funding

Under the Act, a new National Commission on Solid Waste Management, headed by the environment secretary and a private sector representative, will assist the LGUs' waste management.

The commission, comprising 14 representatives from government agencies and three from recycling, manufacturing and packaging industries, will also manage a Solid Waste Management Fund.

Ms Macapagal said the National Ecology Center would provide fiscal incentives and funding assistance as well as training, consulting and networking services to the LGUs.

A study commissioned by Greenpeace estimated that Metro Manila could recycle and compost at least 30 percent of its projected waste in 2005 and 60 percent by 2010 if a genuine waste reduction program was used.

Greenpeace Southeast Asia campaign director Von Hernandez said the waste crisis had become a burden for citizens.

"We hope that the Act will provide the impetus for government to find lasting solutions," he said.

"Democratically managed waste management programs will put the garbage crisis into the dustbin of history," he said.

Greenpeace has criticized efforts by some government officials and groups to revoke a provision in the Clean Air Act banning incinerators.

Summit

On Thursday, the President announced a garbage summit to allow groups to "sit down together and work on a consensus to solve the immediate problem and to come up with a long term solution."

Abalos said the summit would be held next week.

The Project Management Office of the Presidential Task Force on Waste Management has identified 17 potential landfill sites. Thirteen belong to private owners.

Abalos said three or four of the sites substantially met the requirements of the Environmental Compliance Certificate.

House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr., Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzales and Rep. Carlos Cojuangco attended the signing of the bill authored by Sen. Loren Legarda.

Absent from the signing of the bill were sponsors and pro-Estrada Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Gregorio Honasan, John Osmeña and Tessie Aquino-Oreta.

They were among the 11 who voted not to open an envelope containing alleged damning evidence against Estrada during the impeachment trial.

Bugs . . .

(From page A1)

of Press Undersecretaries Bobby Capco and Serge Rimonde, and found bugging devices allegedly left behind by the previous Estrada administration.

But the Presidential Security Group, which is in charge of security within the Palace grounds, claimed to have done its own investigation and denied that bugging devices had been planted in the offices previously occupied by former Undersecretaries Tony Seva and Mike Toledo.

"What they were showing were just wires. They were not bugging devices," said Maj. Lito Tabangcura, head of the presidential guards, one of the units under the PSG. The presidential guards are in charge of securing the Palace grounds.

Tabangcura said he had ordered an investigation of the incident and that his men had reported that what the PNP found were not real bugging devices.

The policemen went into the Kalayaan Hall offices without even informing the PSG, he said.

Capco announced to the press that three bugging devices were found at the former office of Toledo, on the second floor of the Kalayaan Hall, now occupied by newly appointed Undersecretary for Broadcast Serge Rimonde.

Capco said Rimonde, who knew Mendoza, asked the PNP chief to let his men check out his office, concerned that there could be bugs or listening devices hidden there.

The PNP conducted the sweeping operations between 10 a.m. and 12 noon, he said.

The policemen found three bugging devices: one hidden in a lamp; another in a light socket, and another in an air-conditioning unit, Capco said.

He said the lamp's bulb even blew up during the sweeping operation.

Capco said another bugging device was found in a chandelier in his office, formerly occupied by Seva.

Television camera crews were allowed inside the offices after the supposed sweeping operation, and were shown the alleged bugging devices.

Capco said that all offices of the press secretary would be swept for bugging devices.

He said the police had already finished sweeping the Palace and the Presidential Residence, and found a few bugging devices there too.

Tabangcura said the PSG and the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) conduct daily sweeping operations and checks for incendiary and bugging devices in the Palace proper and the Presidential Residence but did not say if they found any such devices.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

TENNIS: Australian Open, Women's Finals at 10:30 a.m. (r -3:30 p.m.) on Sky Cable 17
BASKETBALL: NBA Action at 8 a.m. (r - 7:30 p.m.) on ESPN
NBA—Phoenix Suns vs Boston Celtics at 8:30 a.m. (r – 8 p.m.) on ESPN, Portland Trailblazers vs Indiana Pacers at 4:30 p.m. (r) and San Antonio Spurs vs Sacramento Kings at 7 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
US NCAA - NC State Wolfpack vs Florida State Seminoles at 11 a.m. (r) on ESPN

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▣ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

MRT-Southwoods Open set

BY JONG ARCANO

PROFESSIONAL golf comes back to life as a new local circuit was launched yesterday, beginning with the MRT-Southwoods Open Feb. 1-4 at Southwoods.

Twelve legs have been planned for the year as organizers unveiled the plan in a press conference at the Manila Southwoods in Carmona, Cavite.

Bankrolled by the vast business network of the Sobrepeña family, the circuit will have College Assurance Plan as tournament presenter. MRT and Southwoods are title sponsors.

"The whole sports budget of CAP is being infused into this golf circuit in consideration of the support it can give to local pros and also to charity," said Enrique Sobrepeña, president of CAP.

Bob Sobrepeña, son of Enrique, said that four tournaments will be played at Fil-Estate courses in the next two months.

The young Sobrepeña said his supporters will finance eight more legs in the remaining months of the year.

"As we who are in the sport know, our regular and senior pros are tournament-starved. They didn't have tournaments last year when their regular tour was cancelled," Bob Sobrepeña said.

BOB SOBREPEÑA (right) with his father, Enrique. ROGER MARGALLO

He said that the tour will be recognized by the Asian PGA and competing players will gain points for the APGA Order of Merit. Foreigners may enter the tour.

Each leg will stake P500,000, with the CAP Senior Challenge staking P100,000. Another P25,000 will be shared by the top five pros in the pro-am.

The regular pro champion will receive P100,000, the seniors winner P23,000.

Sobrepeña said the total pot could be upped to P1 million in the succeeding legs.

The tournament is in lieu of the President's Invitational Pro-Am, which was cancelled by the Asian PGA due to the tense political situation leading to the Edsa Revolt 2. Taking its place is the Thai Open.

Among the absent Filipino stars in the Southwoods tilt are Gerald Rosales, Cassius Casas, Danny Zarate and Mars Pucay, who will all play in the Thai Open.

But the younger Sobrepeña said that the President's Cup would be held either late next month or early March.

Registration deadline for the Southwoods Open is on Jan. 31. Entry fee is P1,000. Players can sign up at the Southwoods main clubhouse front desk or may call 091-263946 and fax number 091-876-9519.

Cometa soars like a comet

BY JUNE NAVARRO

COMETA

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—Pint-sized Aiza Cometa grew larger than life to become the meet's most bemedalled athlete in the Second Batang Pinoy Games.

The 12-year-old from Liliw, Laguna, tucked three more golds under her belt at the close of athletics competitions yesterday at the San Luis track oval here to pad her total to five, all done in record-setting fashion.

The smallest among the competitors at 5-foot-1, Cometa followed up her victories in the century and 200-meter dash with shining moments in the 400-m dash, 4x100 and 4x400 relays.

Aside from a scholarship grant from the Philippine Sports Commission, she is tipped to receive P25,000 from the local government of Laguna.

Cometa clinched her third gold in the 400-m dash with a time of 1:02.4 to break the mark of Negros Occidental's Lorry Gen Ladonce (1:06.3). She then anchored Laguna to a 54.6-second finish in the 4x100 relay, smashing the old standard of Camarines Sur (57.3).

Cometa capped her heroics by spearheading the 4 x 400 relay team to the gold that boosted Laguna to a pacesetting 31-gold, 13-silver, 16-bronze medal haul after five days of competitions.

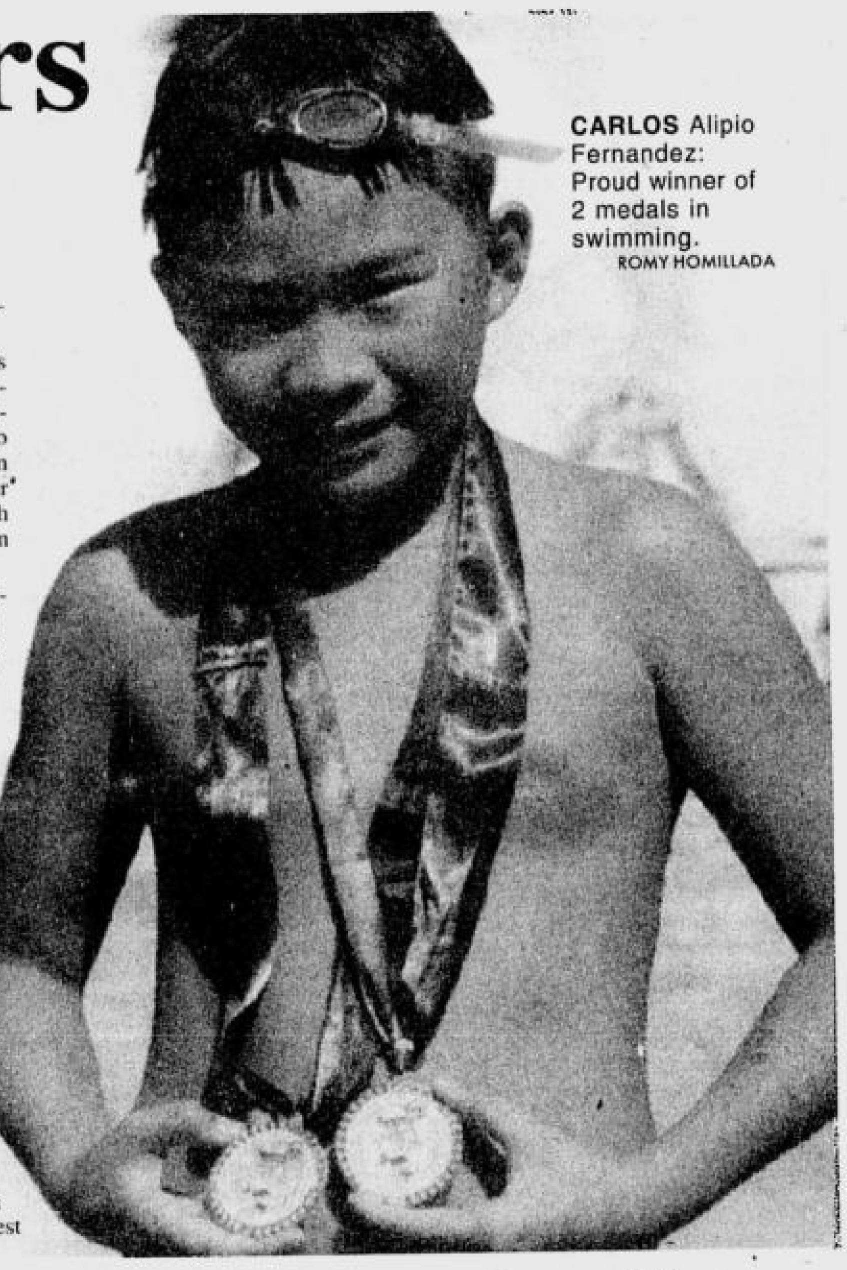
Meanwhile, Dennis Cordero, tournament director for swimming, recommended that the two swimmers from Mindanao placed under protest be granted with their medals under certain conditions.

Cordero said the gold-medal of Jilharah Erian of Tawi-tawi in the boys' 9-10 years old 50-meter freestyle will still count on the tally but his clocking will not be put on record.

He added silver medalist Darel Pasion of Cebu would also receive a gold medal. Davao Oriental's Esa Linsag would still enjoy her gold medals in the boys' 7-8 50 and 100-m freestyle.

Over at the San Luis swimming pool, three tankers—Malabon's Ronald Papa, Albay's Henrico Jose and Manila's Bea del Mundo—matched Manila's Lambert Guiriba's three-gold output.

In little league baseball, Ilocos Norte proved too classy for Muntinlupa, 14-8, to capture the title. Davao snared the judo overall title with six golds. Muntinlupa and Laguna had two golds each to wrest second place honors.



CARLOS Alipio Fernandez: Proud winner of 2 medals in swimming. ROMY HOMILLADA

Puyat assures cagers

THE WARRING factions of the Basketball Association of the Philippines finally met when the supposed arbiters were already gone yesterday, reaching a consensus that the national teams would be left untouched.

Rene Cruz, head of the Philippine Olympic Committee investigative committee, had already called off the supposed conciliatory meeting and left when only Tiny Literal, the newly elected BAP president, showed up at the POC office for the 5 p.m. session.

Lito Puyat, the chair of both factions, and Freddie Jalasco, who was ousted from the presidency by the national board last week, arrived around 6:30 p.m.

Puyat assured the national players, led by team skipper Romel Adducul, that they wouldn't be disbanded.

"Over our dead bodies. This team will stay intact for flag and country," said Puyat, drawing cheers from the Nationals, including head coach Boyzie Zamar.

Jalasco remained optimistic that the impasse could be settled internally.

"We'll be holding meetings in the coming days even without the presence of the investigative committee and we will work for the best interest of the country," said Jalasco.

Literal, however, was non-committal: "I will have to consult the board regarding their proposal, but I feel happy with their declaration of support to the national team."

Jong Arcano

DI deal floors PBA

THE PBA (Philippine Basketball Association) was floored by Danny "DI" Ildefonso's record-breaking contract he signed with Tanduay Gold on Thursday, according to Commissioner Jun Bernardino.

Commissioner said the PBA needs time to "carefully study" the contents of the offer sheet which, according to him, was like no other.

Bernardino said the length of service indicated in the offer sheet—16 years totalling P96 million—has no precedent in the league's 26-year existence.

He admitted however that there are no existing league guidelines to cover the life span of a player's contract.

Ildefonso's contract will be reviewed on Monday upon request of SMB alternate governor Alberto Villa Abrille.

"I think the rules must be reasonable regarding this (a contract's life span)," said Villa Abrille.

"This is not easy, but we want to resolve this as soon as possible," Bernardino told the INQUIRER.

Under league rules, the PBA has to approve offer sheets before giving the player's mother team five days to match.

In a show of professionalism, Ildefonso, the PBA's MVP for 2000, showed up yesterday morning at the SMB workout.

SMB manager Robert Non commended Ildefonso for his gesture. He said nothing would change despite Ildefonso's desire to leave SMB.

Ildefonso will remain with SMB should SMB match Tanduay Gold's P96-million offer to the 6-foot-6 power forward.

Meanwhile, William Ong, Ildefonso's manager, asked for understanding over the issue.

"Let's not get personal about it," said Ong. "This is all for the good of the boy (Ildefonso). I'm sure people would get hurt but we feel that what we did was right."

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Star Sister 2. Shuttle's Rianne 3. Red Hahn
Race 2—1. The Warrior 2. District Three
Race 3—1. Santa Fe 2. Cristel Jay 3. Jerico James 4. Perry's Will
Race 4—1. Gold Pyramid 2. Fireball 3. Summer Dreams 4. Avalanche 5. Hacker
Race 5—1. Cycloneferros 2. Enjoy D View 3. Standout 4. Busanda Strike
Race 6—1. Friendly Lover 2. Filthy Rich 3. Gallant Rose 4. Lucky Gambit 5. Aringkingking
Race 7—1. Annihilator 2. Kitana 3. Very Sharp 4. Always 5. Shot Gun
Race 8—1. Daseldurf 2. Dynasty 3. Arigato 4. Achilles Heels 5. Ohayo Gozaimas
Race 9—1. El Condor 2. Dinner Dress 3. Spectacular Lady 4. Irish Star
Race 10—1. Red Thunder 2. Pride of Mandaue 3. Vanicx 4. Oneofakind 5. Contra Barata
Race 11—1. Walang Hanggan 2. Wan Star 3. Fair Strike 4. Batang Pier 5. Marvy's Magic
Race 12—1. Super Strong 2. Party Princess 3. Something Different 4. Unsalagi 5. Snake Dancer
Race 13—1. My Prayer 2. Super Regent 3. Infinite Voyage 4. Prince Camran 5. Ampere
Race 14—1. Magic Ring 2. Call to Action 3. Be Happy 4. Asalto 5. Imperial Passion

Grande cockfest begins

METRO MANILA's small-time and medium-scale cockers invade Mandaluyong Coliseum at 7 tonight as the "El Grande 4-Cock Derby" hosts 45 fierce encounters.

Derby host is the El Grande Group of Pasay.

Meanwhile, the much-anticipated showdown of local and international entries starts on Tuesday with the staging of the Mandaluyong 9-Cock International Derby.

Sponsors are Pagcor Casino-Filipino and Sagupaan Super Feeds in cooperation with Lakpue Drug Inc.

Already in town are Americans pit stars led by Chuck Berry of Oklahoma, Paul Sparks of Alabama, Bobby Jones of Texoma Game Club (Texas), Gregg Ayroso of California, Travis Clark of Stone County, Missouri and George Torres and Gerry Douglas of California and Puerto Rican Ruben Rodriguez.

Derby tonite

WITH only nine entries still unscathed after three days of competition, cocking action is expected to move a notch higher tonight when the fourth batch of entries to the historic 11th Anniversary Derby of Roligon Mega Cockpit take on one another starting at 5 p.m.

Joining the elite group of perfect scorers after last Thursday's scuffle are William Tan and Arnold Mendoza (Bulak), Ed Risara (Ariba Tonton), Capt. Angeles (Bird Fighter) and Peping Taba of Pampanga (Paula).

Sad day for RP sports–Sy

BY DENNIS U. EROA

"'TWAS a sad day for Philippine sports."

Thus said PBL chair Dioceldo Sy in reaction to the recent protest action by officials and members of the national men's and women's basketball teams in support of Tiny Literal.

"We're a democracy all right but we also have roles to play," Sy told yesterday's Scoop sa Kamayan. "Before going to the streets, we must be fully aware of the issues and then we can take sides."

Sy said what happened at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex was unfortunate.

"It fueled a growing fire and highlighted the disunity in basketball. The country is at the receiving end," he said.

Many-time national player Rommel Adducul headed the rally. Also present were coaches David Zamar and Bay Cristobal and members of the Basketball Referees Commission.

In a show of solidarity with Literal's group, John Ferriols, Cris Calaguio, Eddie Laure, Omanzie Rodriguez and other national players, including members of the youth team, also attended the one-day rally.

Literal, a many-time national cager, is questioning Freddie Jalasco's claim on the BAP presidency and the newly formed super body composed of PBA, PBL and the MBA.

Also present during the Scoop sa Kamayan were Shark Energy Drink team owner Raul Panlilio and team manager Jesse Chua, Montaña Jewels board member Leo Isaac, lawyer Jimmy Javier of PharmaQuick, Deputy Commissioner Tommy Ong and Perry Martinez, PBL's chief for basketball operations.

Sy said sports and politics should not mix.

"In all humility, we should look at the PBL. There's no politics in the PBL. It's all about teamwork," Sy said.

Meanwhile, Challenge Cup finalists Welcoat Paints and Shark Energy Drink give a preview of the best-of-seven finals as they collide at 4 p.m. in the penultimate day of the semifinals.

Blu Sun Power and Hapee Toothpaste meet at 2 p.m.

NBA RESULTS

Dallas 120, Vancouver 83; Minnesota 109, Orlando 100; Portland 92, Indiana 82; Utah 98, Denver 96; San Antonio 97, Sacramento 91.

AP

Williams sisters complete Slam

MELBOURNE, Australia—Venus and Serena Williams completed a career Grand Slam in women's doubles Friday, beating Lindsay Davenport and Corina Morariu 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 in the Australian Open.

The Williams sisters won the French Open and US Open in 1999. Last year they won Wimbledon and gold medals in the Sydney Olympics.

"We love to play with each other," Venus said. "I can't imagine playing with anyone else. We do so well together."

The title came after both sisters were eliminated in singles by Martina Hingis. Serena was defeated in the quarterfinals and Venus endured the most lopsided loss of her career, 6-1, 6-1, in the semifinals Thursday.

Clement vs Agassi

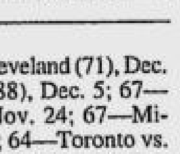
MELBOURNE, Australia—Arnaud Clement saved two match points and fought back from two sets down to deny his close friend Sebastien Grosjean a place in the Australian Open final. Clement, seeded 15 to Grosjean's 16, won 5-7, 2-6, 7-6 (7/4), 7-5, 6-2 to set himself up for a crack at defending champion Andre Agassi in Sunday's final.

AP

Scoring drought

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao



TEAM scoring in the NBA is down by nearly four points per game this season despite additional rules changes to speed up the game.

Only the reigning NBA titlist LA Lakers are averaging at least 100 points every time out and low scores have been prevalent through the halfway point of the regular wars.

Who would have thought that low-scoring performances such as Charlotte's lousy 65-56 home victory over Miami last Dec. 20 or Portland's 58-point effort in a 26-point (84-58) road loss to Cleveland on Jan. 22 that duplicated New York's output in an embarrassing 89-58 setback to Utah at the Madison Square Garden on Dec. 15 could still happen in this modern era of pro basketball?

Yet, they did happen.

The December 20 (no) contest between Charlotte and Miami that totaled 121 points was the second-fewest since the NBA introduced the 24-second shot clock in 1954-55—behind only the 119 scored in the Boston Celtics' 62-57 win over the Milwaukee (now Atlanta) Hawks on Feb. 27, 1955. The Heat set a franchise low with 56 points, equalling the third-fewest score by one team in the shot clock era. Chicago only had 49 in an 82-49 loss to visiting Miami on April 10, 1999, Indiana was limited to 55 in a 74-35 home defeat to San Antonio on March 29, 1998 and Utah got only 56 markers in a 71-56 loss at Seattle on Feb. 16, 1999.

The 58 points by the Trail Blazers and Knicks were all-time franchise lows for both clubs.

In addition to the three 50-point performances, there have been also 11 60-69 games by NBA teams so far this season.

The list: 67—New York at Charlotte (81), Jan. 24; 67—Charlotte at Portland (89), Jan. 1; 68—Chicago at New York (95), Dec. 29; 68—New York at Toronto (70), Dec. 14; 69—Atlanta at Detroit (92), Dec. 13; 66—Charlotte at Cleveland (71), Dec. 5; 64—New Jersey at Indiana (88), Dec. 5; 67—Atlanta vs. Philadelphia (76), Nov. 24; 67—Miami vs. Cleveland (86), Nov. 22; 64—Toronto vs. Charlotte (100), Nov. 20; and 64—Chicago at Utah (109), Nov. 18.

In the light of the current team scoring drought in the NBA, any 50-point feat by one player takes greater significance because of the poor shooting and boring half-court games that are being played today.

So far, there have bee seven half-century scoring heroics by five different players, including twice each by Philadelphia's Allen Iverson and Golden State's Antawn Jamison.

Others to have reached the 50-point plateau are Phoenix's Tony Delk, Sacramento's Chris Webber and the LA Lakers' Kobe Bryant.

The all-time NBA record for most 50-point players in a single season is eight, which Michael Jordan (Chicago), Karl Malone (Utah), Tom Chambers (Phoenix), Dale Ellis (Seattle), Hakeem Olajuwon (Houston), Terry Cummings (San Antonio), Patrick Ewing (New York) and Larry Bird (Boston) accomplished during the 1989-90 campaign, when the league's team scoring average was a respectable 107.0 ppg.

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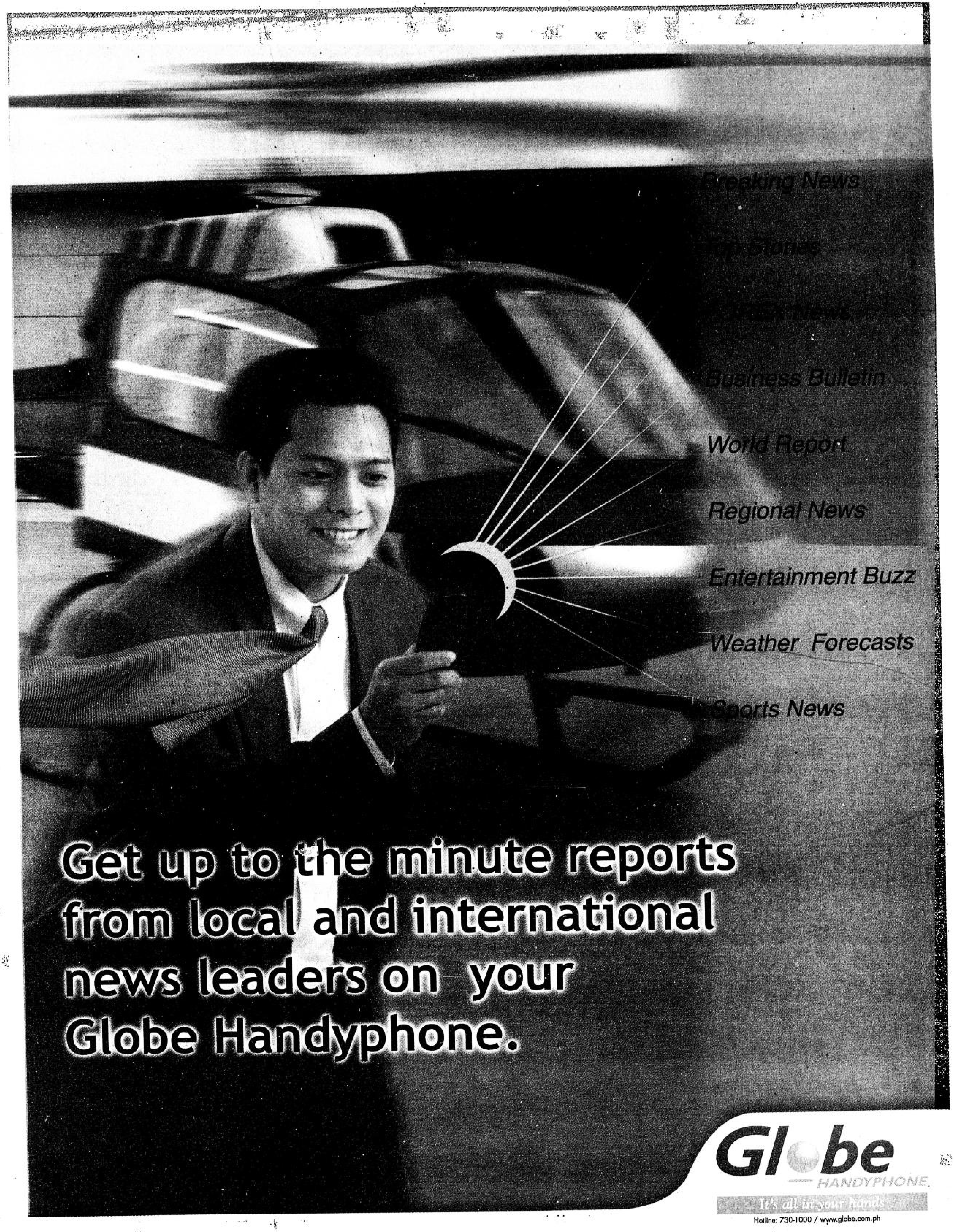
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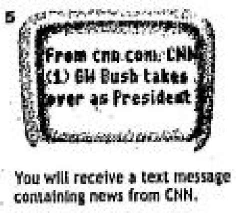
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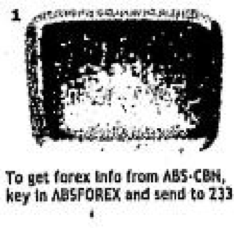
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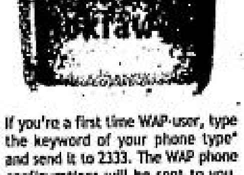
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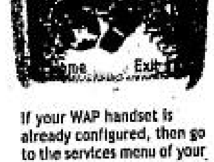

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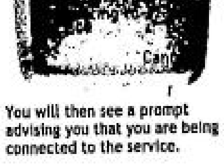
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'Freddie Aguilar' victim sings

POLICE on Thursday arrested Metro Manila Development Authority traffic officers Freddie Aguilar, a namesake of the singer, and Abelardo Gallano for trying to extort P600 from truck driver Bernardo Baun in Quezon City. Baun was about to give them the money when a police car passed by. The two traffic men ended up in jail.

Philip C. Tubeza

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Cop as wife-beater

LIZA Nacion, 34, and her husband PO1 Eduardo Optana, 42, had been separated for several months when they saw each other in San Andres, Manila at about 1 a.m. Wednesday. He tried to convince her to go back to him but she refused because she said he was mean and often beat her up. Optana promptly beat her up again.

Jerome Aning

Another landslide hits Payatas

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA
AND VOLT CONTRERAS

A YOUNG scavenger went missing when the Payatas dump in Quezon City was rocked by another landslide yesterday, only six months after it collapsed and killed 217 people.

Rogie Baliwas, 16, has not been found as of early last night, after bulldozing operations on top of the garbage pile caused a minor trash slide that could have buried him alive.

Baliwas had come all the way from Erap City in Rodriguez (formerly Montalban), Rizal to scavenge in the newly reopened dump at the place known as Burias Site, Group 3, Payatas B.

Baliwas, Franklin Pezas, 16, also of Erap City, and Payatas resident Joel Lalikan, 17, were sorting trash when a

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Credit card company man in ₱2.6-M scam

BY AGNES E. DONATO

A CREDIT card company processor yesterday was accused of taking P2.6 million from his clients by using duplicates of their cards in Pasig City.

Police arrested Albert Reyes, 27, single, of Barangay Balanti, Cainta, Rizal, an employee of Bankard, which holds office at the Robinson Equitable Tower 4 on ADB Avenue in Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Police said Bankard lawyer Jose Celestino Torres filed a complaint against Reyes after fake credit cards were found in the employee's possession.

Investigators said Reyes, as a card processor, had access to documents that he used in duplicating the credit cards of some clients.

His anomalous activities were discovered when personnel of department stores where he had shopped filed complaints against him.

Employees of the department stores reportedly noticed that Reyes' signature on the credit card duplicates he used did not match the signatures of the original card owners.

Reyes was arrested in an operation launched by Joseph Amoyo and other members of the Criminal Investigation Group of the Eastern Police District.

Reyes yielded some items that he admitted he bought with the use of fraudulent credit cards, including a Sony FM/AM discman, 2 multi-media speakers and one power adaptor. He also yielded a duplicate credit card in the name of one Felix Ansaldo.

Reyes is now detained at the EPD-CIG headquarters. A case of qualified theft, estafa and violation of the anti-access device law are being prepared against him. *Agnes Donato*

Asistio son cleared of drug, gun charges

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

A REGIONAL trial court has cleared a son of Caloocan Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio of drug and firearm charges filed against him last year.

In a 19-page resolution, Judge Myrna Dimaranan-Vidal of Caloocan RTC Branch 127 granted the motion of the Department of Justice to withdraw information on Luisito "Peting" Asistio's case, which let the latter off the hook.

State prosecutor Philip Aguinaldo filed the motion to withdraw information after a preliminary investigation by the DOJ showed no probable cause to uphold the charges against Peting.

Peting was arrested on April 5, 2000 in his house in Dagat-Dagatan, Caloocan during a buy-bust operation undertaken by members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group - Regional Command 3 and the Northern Police District.

When asked to comment, Rep. Asistio said he preferred not to talk about it, claiming he had severed all ties with his sons Peting and Pachot for their frequent brushes with the law.

Shortly before Peting was arrested, CIDG-Recom 3 Chief Insp. Rhodel Sermonia shot him when he allegedly tried to pull out a .45-cal. pistol.

Authorities allegedly seized from Peting 206 grams of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) and the gun.

Sermonia later filed charges against Peting and his companions, Ricardo Garcia and Ronel Rivera.

On May 18, Judge Vidal granted the DOJ's request for a preliminary investigation after the DOJ admitted that it failed to conduct one in Asistio's case.

State prosecutors Ramon Hernando, Ma. Nerissa Carpio and Aguinaldo investigated the case but failed to establish sufficient grounds to uphold the charges against Peting.

Results of the DOJ investigation allegedly confirmed an earlier National Bureau of Investigation report that the buy-bust operation was really a rubout attempt.

General Espinosa's shameful act

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

I'M a close friend of Lt. Gen. Edgardo "Spine" Espinosa. I'm his adopted classmate at the Philippine Military Academy Class '67, to which he belongs.

But I find his actuation in trying to, claim credit for the military's role at Edsa II very shameful. We Visayans in Mindanao have a term for it: *hilas*.

In grabbing credit for Edsa II and downplaying the role of Gen. Angelo Reyes, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff, Espinosa showed how petty he is. He only succeeded in earning the ridicule of his fellow officers and the disrespect of the rank and file members of the military establishment.

Spine, how could you stoop so low?

* * *

Espinosa said it was he who convinced the military to join People Power II at Edsa. He said Reyes joined the Edsa crowd at the last minute only because he had lost control over the AFP.

In American football, what Espinosa did was Monday morning quarterbacking. He claims credit after the fact but how can he prove he was about to go to Edsa but that Reyes beat him to it?

Granting he really did what he claims he did, so what? Everything's finished. People don't care anymore. What they care about is that President Erap is out.

As Reyes said: "There is enough credit for everybody to share. It's finished."

* * *

President Macapagal gave too much credit to Espinosa when she asked him over phone: "Hello, Spine? Are you going to stage a coup against me?"

Ms Macapagal asked the question in the middle of a news conference apparently for the benefit of reporters.

The President expressed apprehension that Espinosa might grab her newfound power from her.

* * *

But does Espinosa have the capability to stage a coup?

The former commander of the Southern Command (Southcom) doesn't have the charisma of Sen. Gregorio Honasan who staged several coup attempts against the government of President Aquino.

Espinosa doesn't have followers even among his former subordinates.

How can he stage a coup all by himself?

* * *

One of President Macapagal's early mistakes in her new administration is the appointment of retired Gen. Lisandro Abadia, former AFP chief of staff, as national security adviser.

Abadia's appointment is apparently a political accommodation. Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado has resigned in protest over Abadia's appointment.

Mercado said he would feel uncomfortable working with Abadia whom he ordered investigated for irregularities committed in the Retirement and Separation Benefits Systems (RSBS).

* * *

Ms Macapagal should recall Abadia's appointment if she wants her government to have a clean image.

The public perception is that Abadia is very corrupt because of the irregularities in the RSBS when he was AFP chief of staff.

Abadia's appointment is very unpopular even among retired and active members of the military.

* * *

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile is not running for reelection in the May elections. Instead, he will run for congressman in Cagayan where he will surely win.

The congressional seat in his district is being held by his only son, Jack Enrile.

Jack will retire from politics to give way to his father. He will concentrate on running the family business empire estimated at P11.5 billion.

The elder Enrile will play an active opposition role in the House of Representatives. He told me over lunch yesterday he would try to win back the goodwill of the citizenry. Enrile is one of the 11 controversial senators who voted against opening the second envelope that would have shown former President Erap's bank accounts. That triggered Edsa Part II.

* * *

Leandro Mendoza, the new Philippine National Police (PNP) chief, is well loved by his subordinates.

Unlike his predecessor, Panfilo Lacson, Mendoza doesn't discriminate against officers who are not graduates of the Philippine Military Academy. Mendoza is a member of PMA Class '68.

Because Mendoza doesn't play favorites and doesn't discriminate, the PNP will become an efficient organization as he will have the full cooperation of non-PMAers who compose the bulk of the PNP officers corps.

Binay: I'm not running away

FORMER Metro Manila Development Authority chair Jejomar Binay yesterday said that he is willing to face the graft charges recently filed against him and that he does not intend to run away.

Gideon Javier, son of Antique Gov. Exequiel Javier, earlier charged that Binay released P90 million in "advanced payment" to the Semirara landfill contractors.

Javier also charged Robert Aventajado, former chair of the Greater Metro Manila Solid Waste Management Committee.

The MMDA did not release any amount for that purpose, said Binay who recently resigned from the MMDA.

The former MMDA chair also denied he violated RA 7588, the law on the country's national parks, wildlife and marine sanctuaries.

He said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources had issued an "operational clearance" for the operation of a sanitary landfill on Semirara Island in Antique province.

The clearance legalized the operation of a landfill on the island, he said.

He added that because of the restraining order issued by an Antique court, no garbage was ever dumped on Semirara. He said Antique residents would attest to this.

"We have always worked within the bounds of the law," Binay said. "When the TRO was issued, we respected it and refrained from dumping garbage on the site."

Another landslide . . .

(From page A19)

part of the dump collapsed, said Delia Badion, head of the July 10 Payatas Victims Organization (J10PVO).

Pezas and Lalikan survived with minor injuries, Badion said.

She said the three scavengers were going through the trash when a bulldozer tried to flatten the top of the garbage mountain. The boys were about 50 feet below the top.

Badion said that when the boys saw that the trash heap was about to fall on them, they ran away and jumped into a creek.

But Baliwas was apparently not a fast swimmer, and the sliding trash caught him and piled up on him, she said.

The latest landslide left almost half the width of the creek covered with trash, Badion said.

Retired general Arnulfo Ibanez of the Quezon City Hall's department of public order and safety said Baliwas could still be alive. He said the boy could have gone home but did not tell anybody about the incident because his parents reportedly did not want him to scavenge in Payatas.

The Burias site is far from the site of the July 10 tragedy, according to Ibanez.

The J10PV0 accused the Quezon City Hall of enticing former Payatas residents living in Erap City to scavenge in the reopened dumpsite.

Badion said they had repeatedly told officials to close the dump immediately after the July tragedy.

The Burias site was the temporary "garbage transfer station" for the city's trash.

An open letter to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

"Help me become a good President"

Your Excellency, we hear you loud and clear.

You can become one if you keep your promise to listen to the voices of those who have long clamored for good government, who helped in the campaign for the overthrow of the former president and his cronies and who joined the masses at EDSA which culminated in People Power II.

The reported retention of Mr. Juan "Johnny" Peña as General Manager of the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) sends the worst signal to those of us who believed that yours would be an administration that would be based on "new politics": transparent, crony-free and devoid of patronage.

Mr. Peña is one of the worst and most abusive officials of the past administration when he secretly drew up Executive Order 59 which would have unilaterally awarded a monopoly of all the ports in the Philippines to a consortium dominated by two favorite friends of the former president—friends who also happened to own two largest arrastre companies—International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) and Asian Terminals Inc. (ATI).

It is an open secret that Mr. Peña is the *bata-bata* of those two cronies. Even after former President Estrada publicly rescinded EO 59, Mr. Peña and his cohorts continued to force the monopolization and undermine his president's orders. He has even arrogantly refused to obey a decision handed down by the Court of Appeals.

The Coalition for Ports Modernization was organized because of the overwhelming opposition by port users to the implementation of EO 59 and the monopolization of the Philippine port system including, but not limited to Manila's North Harbor. We have the documentation to prove the illegal, heavy-handed activities of Mr. Peña and his cohorts.

It is known that Mr. Peña's brother, Fernando, is a bosom buddy of a ranking LAKAS Congressman and that the ICTSI owner is a longtime supporter of yours. We hope this will not becloud your judgment.

Your Excellency, for the good of our country, to promote competition in our economy and to lower the prices of food and prime commodities, we respectfully request you to appoint a true professional as General Manager of the PPA.

May the Almighty continue to guide you in your undertakings.

Coalition for Ports Modernization

Distribution Management Association of the Philippines
Philippine Electrical, Electronics and Allied Industries Federation
Philippine Ship Agents Association
Samahan sa Pilipinas ng Industriyang Kimika
Association of Private Port Owners and Operators of the Philippines
Visayan Association of Ferryboat and Coastwise Service Operators
Federation of Free Farmers
Asosasyon ng mga Manggagawa sa Pantalan-NAFLU
United Dockhandlers, Inc. Supervisory Union
Pagkakaisa ng mga Manggagawa sa Pantalan-NAFLU
United Trampers Association of the Philippines

Top 10 of Cinema Y2K

By Alexis L. Loinaz

ROMAN gladiators. Philippine heroes. American patriots. Chinese warriors.

Cinema Y2K in the Philippines saw a bevy of interesting characters infiltrating, populating and animating local movie screens, with tales set in places as remote as 18th century America ("The Patriot") or as localized as the modern-day Filipino home ("Tanging Yaman").

From "The End of the Affair" to "A Bold Affair" (yes, that priceless "Basic Instinct" rip-off was released in the country February, lest you failed to see it), 2000 had its share of silverscreen hits and misses.

There were glaring clunkers ("Blair Witch 2," "Stigmata"), tastelessly-titled releases ("Masarap Habang Mainit," "Nag-aapoy na Laman") and sequels that bordered on the embarrassing (did anyone actually watch "The Gods Must Be Crazy 13" or "Night of the Living Dead: 30th Edition" last year?).

At the other end of the spectrum, moviegoers ate up big Hollywood offerings ("The World is Not Enough," "Mission: Impossible 2"), heavily hyped star-driven vehicles ("Anak," "Minsan Minahal Kita"), as well as lower-profile but notably personal films ("Azucena," "Magnolia," "Boys Don't Cry").

Whichever way you look at it, though, one thing is clear: On the whole, cinema Y2K in the Philippines seems to have been one of the more lackluster years in movies; this includes all films, local and foreign, released in the country in the last 12 months. While certain movies scored with either audiences or critics, last year's batch failed to generate an overwhelming sense of awe, astonishment or admiration.

This stands in stark contrast to 1999, which showcased films that were audacious (the eerie "Scorpio Nights 2"), powerful (the fable-like "Pleasantville"), profound (the film-festival favorite "Run Lola Run"), mind-expanding (the ultra-hip "The Matrix") or just plain fun (the literate "Shakespeare in Love").

Nevertheless, several of last year's releases rose above the din and I've compiled them here in my list of the top 10 films of 2000. As with any compilation of this nature, one can never be truly comprehensive or objective, so I'm not even going to try. After all, as a functioning member of society, I can only see so many films before wondering whether or not my skin actually gets enough sunlight.

So here's my mea culpa: I admit I didn't get to see all of last year's movies. Some, I heard, were gems ("High Fidelity" was supposed to be fantastic); others, I've been told, were atrocities (friends say I'm lucky I missed the horrific "Autumn in New York").

But of the many films that I did see, these were the ones that stood out—the ones that made me roll off my chair while laughing, sink into it while cowering or shake in it while sobbing. This, then, is a most subjective ranking of those films—all of which provided me some of the best moments at the movies last year.

1. The End of the Affair

Undoubtedly the most soulful and affecting movie of 2000. Director Neil Jordan's austere adaptation of the Graham Greene novel about two doomed lovers is an eloquent meditation on contradictions: love coupled with hate, jealousy with desire, human folly with divine redemption. The film's brilliance, though, is that in the end, it isn't really about passion and romance, but about faith and all its manifestations: faith in love, faith in god, faith in the promises we make in the name of love and god.

2. Erin Brockovich

What do you get when you put a $20-million-a-picture movie star in a push-up bra? A luminous blockbuster of a film, that's what. With this true-to-life legal thriller, Julia Roberts finally receives the long-overdue critical validation she deserves. Trashy, provocative and intelligent, "Erin Brockovich" is the antithesis of the Hollywood biopic and of the archetypal Julia Roberts movie. Thank god for movie stars in push-up bras.

3. Not One Less

This exceptionally tender film about a young Chinese teacher in search of her lost student gave me the biggest, most enjoyable movie surprise of last year. Unflinching and unsentimental, "Not One Less" is the kind of movie that gently sneaks up on you, and then—without warning blows you away with its emotional bombshells. In the end, when you discover the film's reality-versus-make believe twist, you realize you've just seen a rare and remarkable movie.

4. Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon

Finally, a martial arts movie that truly kicks ass. This stirring, soaring epic by acclaimed director Ang Lee infuses new blood into an often-parodied genre by going beyond kung fu trappings and bringing a grand, almost classical sense of storytelling. To top it off, "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" features some of the most jaw-dropping fight sequences ever committed to film—a masterstroke of power, grace and elegance unmatched by any other martial arts movie.

5. Charlie's Angels

The guiltiest moviegoing pleasure of 2000. This update of the popular '70s TV jiggle fest is so riotously funny because it's in on the supreme joke: that the original series was campy to begin with, so the only real way to make this version work is to play up the camp. From its ball-busting, "girl pow-wah!" action sequences to its "you-go-girlfriend" attitude, "Charlie's Angels" proves that size-D breasts can come with size-D brains and brawn. And with Cameron Diaz doing the "running man," how can you lose?

6. The Insider

Stark, gripping and skillfully mounted, "The Insider" was one of last year's criminally overlooked films. The true story of a corporate whistle blower who blew the lid off a multibillion-dollar tobacco scam, the film is remarkable because it creates an enormous amount of suspense and tension through searing dialogue rather than through crass action scenes. The movie also scores points for finally giving powerhouse actor Russell Crowe's a venue to shine.

7. Bayaning 3rd World

Although screened for critics in December 1999, "Bayaning 3rd World" was actually released in February 2000, hence its inclusion in this list. Director Mike de Leon's incisive deconstruction of the Jose Rizal mystique stands as one of the most visually and narratively arresting Filipino films in recent memory. In seeking to debunk the meaning of heroism, De Leon ironically succeeds in affirming its true meaning to us all.

8. Tumbleweeds

The second movie released last year about the relationship between an immature mother and her hyper-mature daughter, "Tumbleweeds" had the misfortune of following the more commercial but less engaging "Anywhere But Here." Still, "Tumbleweeds" is precious—that extraordinary "art film" which is so raw and pure in its emotions you end up laughing and crying along with its characters. This was the one film that won me over instantly, and left a smile on my face when it was over.

9. Gladiator

A throwback to the bygone days of grand, old-fashioned Hollywood epics, "Gladiator" is a captivating, sword-and-sandals extravaganza that actually delivers on its hype. A melding of elegant storytelling, explosive combat sequences, spectacular special effects and high-voltage performances, the film gave audiences a dose of classic Hollywood filmmaking at its finest. It also finally catapulted Crowe into movie star orbit.

10. Chicken Run

Kooky, quirky and wacky, "Chicken Run" was the best animated film I saw last year. With its wry, British humor and stunningly life-like claymation, the film—about a group of chickens who attempt to flee their coop—packs as many comedic punches as it does poultry (and believe me, there are a lot of chickens in this movie). No fowl play here, that's for sure.

THE CORRS. Tagged as "the hardest-working band in the world."

The Corrs 'In Blue' at the Big Dome

ONE of the world's hottest groups, The Corrs, performs live in Manila on Feb. 16 at the Araneta Coliseum.

In what is the most awaited Valentine's musical event in the country, the Celtic group performs not just its biggest hits but also cuts from their third and latest album, "In Blue,"

Presented by Nokia in cooperation with Jag Jeans, the concert features the phenomenal Irish group

"Every band says their latest record is their best yet," says vocalist Andrea. "I really believe it. 'In Blue' is us. It's who we are and we're very proud of it."

Andrea and siblings Caroline on drums, Sharon on violin and Jim on guitars and keyboards are exultant over "In Blue," which contains some of the moving songs ever written by the group like "Breathless" (which earned a Grammy nomination for the group), "Irresistible," "At Your Side" and the poignant "No More Cry."

"We've put our hearts and souls into this album," says Jim.

The Corrs' first album, "Forgiven," released in 1995, made them international stars and eventually turned platinum in six territories and gold in six more.

A year later, The Corrs went on their first tour and earned the accolade "the hardest-working band in the world."

In 1997, the group released their second album, "Talk On Corners."

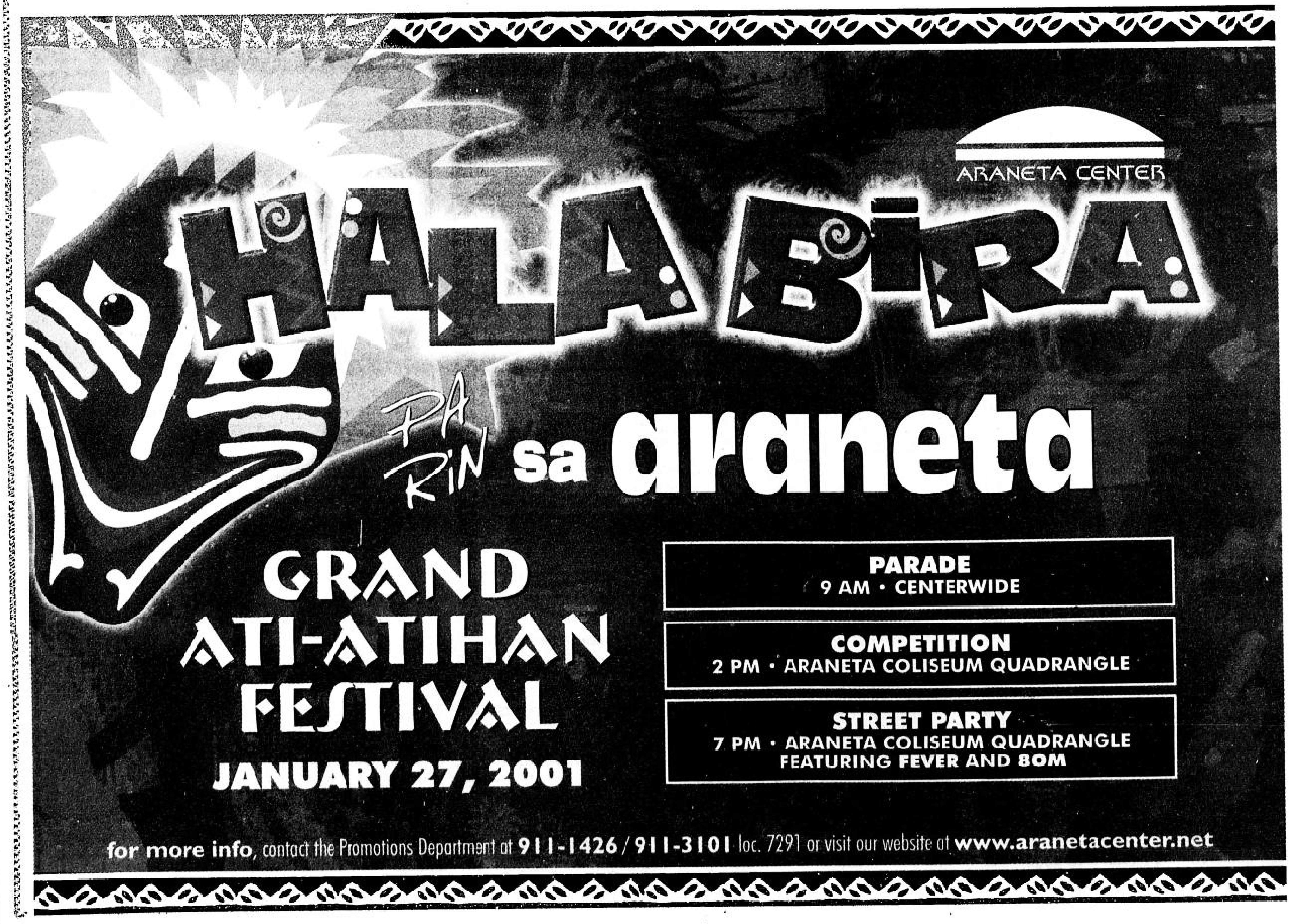
If the first album catapulted them to the big time, this one made The Corrs a major force to reckon with in the entertainment scene.

At one point, the two albums occupied the top two places in the UK charts.

With two Grammy nominations this year (one for "Breathless" and another for "Rebel Heart" in the best pop instrumental category), The Corrs is definitely red-hot right now.

The Corrs' Manila performance promises to be the biggest and best Valentine's treat for Filipino lovers of contemporary music.

Tickets are available at all SM TicketNet outlets. For more information, call 911-5555 or 893-0026.



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SM CINEMA GUIDE

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NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR [illegible]

1	DOLBY SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
2	DOLBY SURROUND	RED PLANET
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?
4	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	WHIPPED
6	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
7	DOLBY SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	HIGHLANDER

SM CENTERPOINT [illegible]

1	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
2	DOLBY SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
3	DTS	RED PLANET
4	DOLBY SURROUND	DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	HIGHLANDER
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
7	DOLBY SURROUND	WHIPPED
8	DOLBY SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9380749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
2	DOLBY SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
3	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	HIGHLANDER
5	DOLBY SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	WHIPPED
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	BOOBA
8	DOLBY SURROUND	DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
10	DOLBY SURROUND	RED PLANET
11	DOLBY SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
12	DOLBY SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY

SM CITY MANILA 5238240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	RED PLANET
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?
3	DOLBY SURROUND	HIGHLANDER
4	DOLBY SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	WHIPPED
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	MEET THE PARENTS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
8	DOLBY SURROUND	REMEMBER THE TITANS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
10	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
11	DOLBY SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	BOOBA
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS

SM MEGAMALL 6331601 • 6320401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	ART MOVIE
2	DOLBY SURROUND	WHIPPED
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	HIGHLANDER
4	DTS	RED PLANET
5	DOLBY SURROUND	DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?
6	DOLBY SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
10	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9286457

1	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
5	DOLBY SURROUND	HIGHLANDER
6	DOLBY SURROUND	WHIPPED
7	DTS	DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	RED PLANET
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KANGKONG
10	DOLBY SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	REMEMBER THE TITANS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN

SM SOUTHMALL [illegible]

1	ULTRA SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
2	ULTRA SURROUND	WHIPPED
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	HIGHLANDER
4	ULTRA SURROUND	DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR
5	ULTRA SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
6	ULTRA SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
7	ULTRA SURROUND	BOOBA
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	BALAHIBONG PUSA
9	ULTRA SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
10	ULTRA SURROUND	RED PLANET

TUTUBAN CENTER [illegible]

1	ULTRA SURROUND	DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BOOBA
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA

SM CEBU [illegible]

1	DOLBY SURROUND	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
2	ULTRA SURROUND	WONDER BOYS
3	ULTRA SURROUND	KANGKONG
4	ULTRA SURROUND	LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE
5	ULTRA SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
6	ULTRA SURROUND	DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGATANG PUSA

[illegible]

1	ULTRA SURROUND	LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE
2	ULTRA SURROUND	LOST SOULS
3	ULTRA SURROUND	FRIENDS & LOVERS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
5	ULTRA SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
6	ULTRA SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
7	ULTRA SURROUND	HIGHLANDER
8	ULTRA SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY

[illegible]

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	LITTLE NICKY
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
3	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	RED PLANET
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA

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[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1 BOOBA	1 DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR? in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	5 REMEMBER THE TITANS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	1 THE RED PLANET in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND	1 DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR THX in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 LITTLE NICKY	2 WHIPPED in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	6 LITTLE NICKY in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND	2 DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND	2 LITTLE NICKY in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 WHIPPED	3 THE RED PLANET THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND	7 MEET THE PARENTS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND	3 BOOBA in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND	3 THE RED PLANET in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 HIGHLANDER	4 AMERICAN PSYCHO (Phil. Premiere) in DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film		4 SOON TO OPEN Onstage	4 THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
				5 BOOBA in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA
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MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) HIGHLANDER
2 (SDDS) LITTLE NICKY
3 (DTS) DUDE
4 GOLD (DTS) RED PLANET
5 GOLD (DOLBY) WHIPPED/CAST AWAY (Spl.Screening 10:00)
6 GOLD (SDDS) CLOSED
7 GOLD (DOLBY) REMEMBER THE TITANS
8 (RMS) TANGING YAMAN
9 (RMS) BOOBA
10 (RMS) BALAHIBONG PUSA

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1 MALIKOT ANG AGOS
2 BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 (DTS)
4
5
6 (DTS) REMEMBER THE TITANS
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315
1 (DOLBY) RED PLANET
2 (DTS) RESERVE
3 SUPER IDOL

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603
1 BOOBA
2 MALIKOT ANG AGOS
3 BALAHIBONG PUSA

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986
1 BOOBA
2 DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
3 MALIKOT ANG AGOS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) RED PLANET
5 WHIPPED

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001
1 DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
2 MALIKOT ANG AGOS
3 BOOBA
4 BALAHIBONG PUSA
5 HIGHLANDER
6 RED PLANET
7 KANGKONG
8 RESERVE

Uniwide Metromall
(Las Piñas) tel. 873.5606 loc. 1074
1 ALINDOG NI BARBARA
2 CRIME STOPPER
3 TUKSO NG PANAHON
4 WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR ONLY P30.00
5
6

Uniwide Coastal Mall
(Parañaque) tel 879.0001 loc. 2152
1 SAMBAHIN ANG PURI MO
2 AKIN KA NGAYON GABI
3 PIRANHA III
4 WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR ONLY P30.00

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 JUAN & TED

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515
1 RESERVE
2 DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
3 MALIKOT ANG AGOS

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864
1 BOOBA
A MALIKOT ANG AGOS

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626
1 LARO SA BAGA
3 EROTIQUE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (DOLBY) BOOBA
2 BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 MALIKOT ANG AGOS
4 HIGHLANDER
5 RED PLANET
6 WHIPPED
7 (DTS) DUDE
8 (SDDS) REMEMBER THE TITANS
9 (DOLBY) LITTLE NICKY

Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 BOOBA
MALIKOY ANG AGOS
6

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 BOOBA
3 MALIKOT ANG AGOS
4 (SDDS) LITTLE NICKY
5 BALAHIBONG PUSA
6 (DOLBY) HIGHLANDER
7 (DTS) RED PLANET
8 SUPER IDOL
9 DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 (DTS) RED PLANET
2 BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 TANGING YAMAN
4 DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
5 (SDDS) WHIPPED
6 BOOBA
7 (DOLBY) HIGHLANDER
8 MALIKOT ANG AGOS

Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 KANGKONG
2 THE 6TH DAY
3 (DTS) RED PLANET
4 BALAHIBONG PUSA
5 (SDDS) MALIKOT ANG AGOS
6 (DOLBY) BOOBA
7 (DOLBY) HIGHLANDER

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 BOOBA

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7889
1 BOOBA

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
Lords LOST PARADISE
Jeanet AGOS NG DUGO

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 MALIKOT ANG AGOS
2 BOOBA
3 BALAHIBONG PUSA
4 RED PLANET

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
1
3 MALIKOT ANG AGOS

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238
1 BOOBA
2 BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 KANGKONG
4 MALIKOT ANG AGOS
5 HIGHLANDER

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619
1 BOOBA
2 MALIKOT ANG AGOS
3 SUPER IDOL
4 OPERATION BLOCK SHIP
5 DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
6 LAGARISTA

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116
1 BOOBA
2 BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 MALIKOT ANG AGOS

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 BOOBA
3 (DTS) DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 (DTS) HIGHLANDER
3 (DOLBY) LITTLE NICKY
4 BOOBA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) BOOBA
2 DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
3 MALIKOT ANG AGOS
4 (DTS) BALAHIBONG PUSA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) CROCODILE
2 BOOBA
3 (DTS) DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
4 BALAHIBONG PUSA
5 KANGKONG

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 BOOBA
3 HIGHLANDER

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101
1 BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 BOOBA
3 HIGHLANDER

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311
1 100 GIRLS
2 BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 BUHAY NA MANEKIN

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1 RED PLANET
2 HIGHLANDER
3 CROCODILE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 BOOBA
2 MALIKOT ANG AGOS
3 DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
4 RESERVE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 243.2783
1 (DTS) BOOBA
2 (DTS) BALAHIBONG PUSA

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1 BOOBA

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 BOOBA
2 KANGKONG
3 HIGHLANDER

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 MEET THE PARENTS
2 SUPER IDOL
3 BALAHIBONG PUSA
4 RED PLANET

Berma
tel 879.2188
1 CLOSED
2 CLOSED

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1 RED PLANET
2 DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
3 BOOBA
4 MALIKOT ANG AGOS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) REMEMBER THE TITANS
2 BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 BOOBA
4 (DTS EX) HIGHLANDER

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

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BEAUTY PAGEANT 2001

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a special presentation

Ariel goes on mall tour

ARIEL Rivera will do the rounds of SM Malls in line with the promotion of his latest album under BMG Records Pilipinas, "Ariel Rivera Greatest Hits," a compilation of his bestselling songs.

Ariel will be at SM Manila today, SM Southmall on Feb. 3, SM Bacoor on Fev. 9, SM Fairview on Feb. 10 and SM Centerpoint on Feb. 17. Showtime is at 4 p.m.

Ariel will be joined by Raisa Cayabyab and upcoming musical group Kaya, who are also contract artists of BMG Records.

For the February shows, there will be an ongoing Ariel Rivera sing-alike contest, with cash prizes at stake.

To join, simply get a copy of the "Greatest Hits" minus one then visit or call the BMG Records office at 4/F Equitable Bank Bldg., Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City, Tel. Nos. 911-0636/38. Look for George or Reev.

There will also be free posters for all album buyers, plus an autograph session with Ariel Rivera after each performance.

RIVERA

ROBINSONS MOVIE WORLD
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e-mail:rhtc@netasia-mla.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

NOW SHOWING
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ERMITA
536-7809-14
❶ THE RED PLANET
❷ DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR
❸ BALAHIBONG PUSA
❹ WHIPPED
❺ HIGHLANDER
❻ LITTLE NICKY
❼ BOOBA

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IMUS
(046)875-3838
❶ THE RED PLANET
❷ BOOBA
❸ MALIKOT ANG AGOS
❹ WHIPPED
❺ TANGING YAMAN
❻ BALAHIBONG PUSA

BACOLOD
(034)441-0463
❶ MEET THE PARENTS
❷ LOST SOULS
❸ BALAHIBONG PUSA
❹ LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE
❺ CRACKER JACK
❻ TANGING YAMAN

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	BOOBA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	HIGHLANDER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	RED PLANET
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	DUDE, WHERE'S MYCAR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	WHIPPED
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	LITTLE NICKY
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	RED PLANET
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	BOOBA
MIRAMAR	BUHAY NA MANEQUIN/ 100 GIRLS
ODEON	BOOBA
ODEON-2	WHIPPED
ROBEN	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
TANDEM-1	SPIRIT WARRIORS
TANDEM-2	NAGHUHUMIYAW
TIMES	WHAT LIES BENEATH / ANACONDA 2000
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	GATAS
ACT-2	ALINDOG NI BARBARA
ACT-3	TURN ON
ACT-4	PALIGAYAHIN MO AKO
CORONET-2	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
QUEZON-1	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
REMAR	BOOBA
REMAR-2	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	MALIKOT NA AGOS
OCEAN CINEMA-A	ASAL DIMONYO
OCEAN CINEMA-B	DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	636-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	REMEMBER THE TITANS
CINEMA-2	THE RED PLANET
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KANGKONG
CINEMA-2	TANGING YAMAN
CINEMA-3	BALAHIBONG PUSA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	REMEMBER THE TITANS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-6	BALAHIBONG PUSA
CINEMA-7	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
CINEMA-8	WHIPPED
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RED PLANET
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HIGHLANDER
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?
CINEMA-12	LITTLE NICKY
CINEMA-14	MEET THE PARENTS
CINEMA-15	BOOBA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	HIGHLANDER
CINEMA-3	KANGKONG
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	RED PLANET
CINEMA-2	DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?
CINEMA-3	MEET THE PARENTS
CINEMA-4	LITTLE NICKY
CINEMA-5	REMEMBER THE TITANS
CINEMA-6	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE

'Women' premiere

IN the tradition of "Charlie's Angels" and other blockbuster movies it has premiered, dwTM 89.9 in cooperation with Pioneer Films, presents "What Women Want," starring Oscar winners Mel Gibson, Helen Hunt and Marisa Tomei, tonight at Cinemas 9 and 10 of SM Megamall.

Regular theater run of the film will start Jan. 31.

"What Women Want" is a romantic comedy about a man (Gibson) who, as a result of a freak accident, acquires the ability to do what every man ever born wants—the power to read women's minds.

The film is directed by Nancy Meyer, whose directorial debut was the hit remake of "The Parent Trap." She is the award-winning scriptwriter of "Private Benjamin," "Baby Boom" and "Father of the Bride 1 and 2."

LOUIE'S CINEMA

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NOW SHOWING

January 27 - Saturday

THE LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE
(GP - RT-2:06)
Drama-Romance
Matt Dammon
Will Smith
Charlize Theron

For screening and reservation, please call up at Louie's THX Cinema at 7512010

LRP Foundation Inc. Louie's THX Cinema Bldg., Mile Long Compound Amorsolo St., Makati City Tel. No. 751-20-10 Fax 892-33-49 www.louiesthx.com.ph

WHAT WOMEN WANT
Mel Gibson / Helen Hunt
opens January 31

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3. **SMART Money User's Guide** - this is your handy SMART Money info kit for everything you need to know about SMART Money.
4. **SMART Money Mobile Banking Welcome Pack** - it contains all the information about SMART Mobile Banking. SMART Mobile Banking allows you to reload your SMART Money card with just a few clicks from your SMART celfone to enjoy the full convenience of SMART Money with SMART Mobile Banking [illegible] money card.

The SMART Money SIM links your celfone to the SMART Money Card giving you the convenience for your mobile lifestyle.

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In "Syota ng Bayan," Priscilla plays a bold star who gets tired of show biz and decides to return to her hometown to rest and assess her life.

Her destination turns out to be politics and public service, becoming a reluctant candidate for mayor who is tasked to end political dynasty in the town of her birth.

She is pitted against Tonton Gutierrez, son of the incumbent mayor, played by Eddie Garcia, who has ruled the town for years.

Priscilla denounces corruption and apathy. She points to the factory which pollutes the air, causing the townspeople to get sick or even die. One of the victims is her own mother.

"Syota ng Bayan," produced by Solar Films, is directed by Romy Suzara and written by Lualhati Bautista.

ALMEDA. Stars in "Syota ng Bayan."

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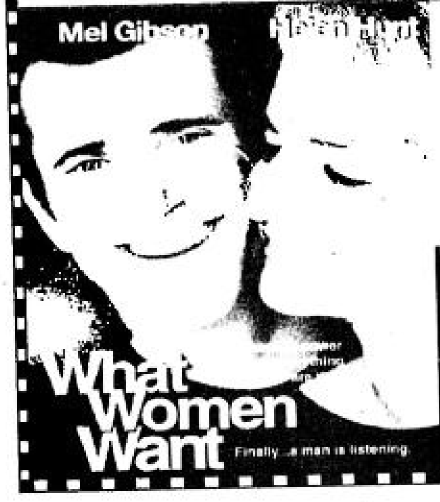

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LITTLE NICKY 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00	REMEMBER THE TITANS 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:20	THE EMPERORS NEW GROOVE 12:20, 2:10, 4:00, 5:50, 7:40, 9:30

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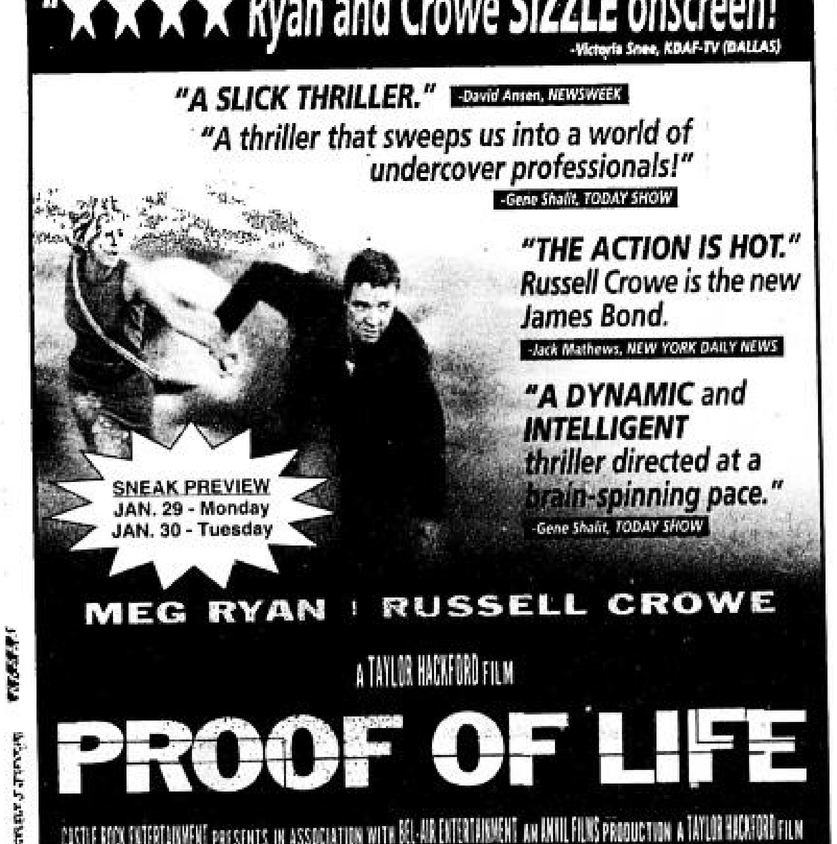

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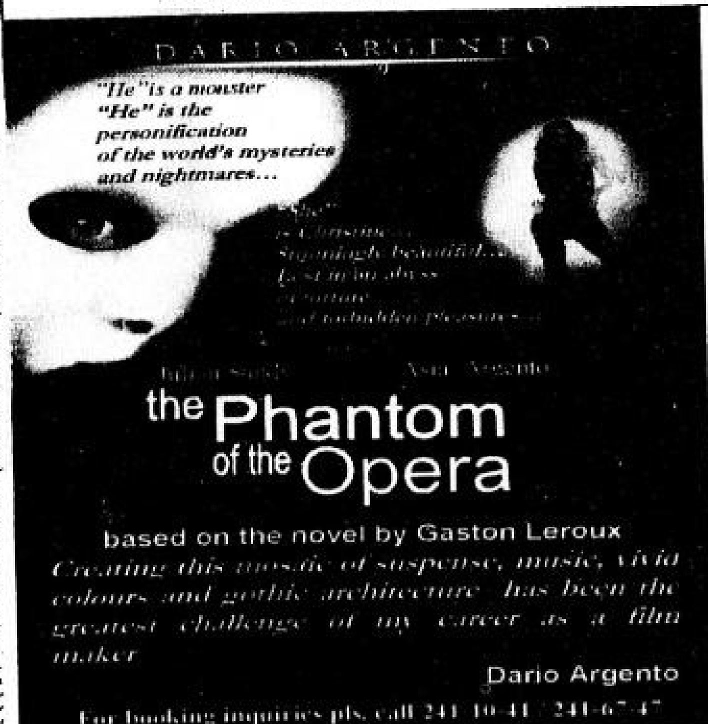

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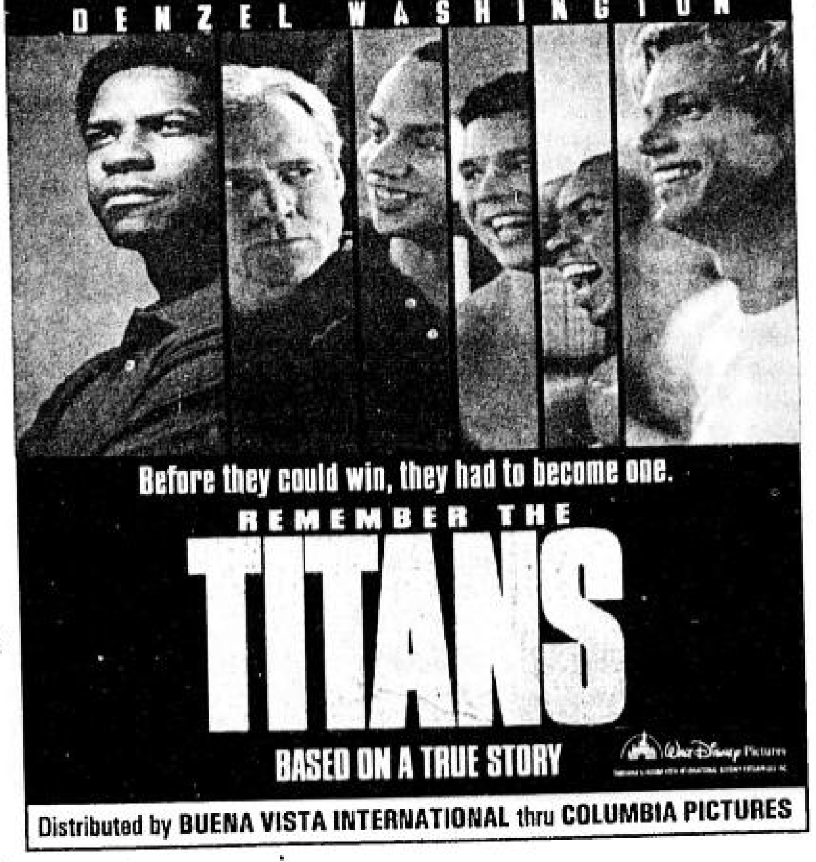

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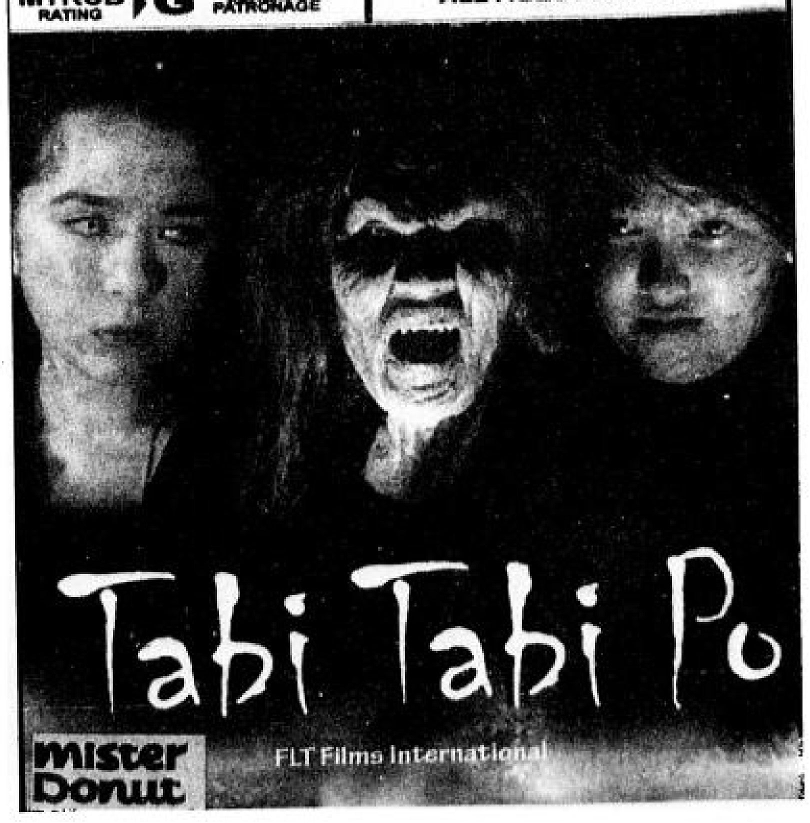

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'Monologue' re-run in 'V-friendly' city

BY JULES ALCANTARA

NEW VOICE Company's "Vagina Monologues" was last year's most thought-provoking and empowering theatrical affair.

Monique Wilson, Dulce Aristorenas and Tami Monsod brought the house down as they gave life to Eve Ensler's (in)famous monologues on what is delicately termed as "down there," or as the playwright herself calls it, the "Bermuda Triangle."

To say that the award-winning play was well accepted here in Manila would be quite an understatement. Apart from the nightly SRO attendance during its limited run, the play left such an impact on its viewers that it became such a hot topic among women (and men) of all ages.

"You're going to miss half of your life!" a friend exclaimed upon finding out that I would not be able to see "Vagina Monologues."

I actually contemplated on moving the date of my departure for the US so that I could catch the last show of New Voice Company's latest hit. I left Manila incomplete. I was convinced that I had really missed half of my life.

Luckily, my best friend surprised me with tickets to the show which had a limited run in Alcazar Theater on Geary Street in San Francisco.

Eve Ensler bowled me over especially as she gave life to the monologues, which were actually interviews she had conducted with several hundreds of women of all various races, shapes and sizes. I laughed so hard. And I could not stop crying when she gave a poignant interpretation of "My Vagina Was My Village" and "I Was There in the Room."

I left the theater renewed and invigorated. I went home to Manila complete.

"Vagina"-friendly city

Ensler announced during the performance that "Manila had just become a 'Vagina'-friendly city." My companions and I could not help but express our appreciation upon hearing this. Although I was happy to see Ensler perform the "Monologues," a part of me wished for a rerun of the show in Manila.

The gods—and most especially the goddesses—must have heard my silent plea.

At 8:30 tonight, a special performance of "Purple Rose: An Evening with the 'Vagina Monologues'" will be shown at the Music Museum. The show actually opened last night as Manila's contribution to the V-Day global celebration, which will culminate on Feb. 10 at Madison Square Garden.

Monique Wilson will perform in Madison Square Garden together with all the other actresses who have performed the play, globally considered a "phenomenon."

The Purple Rose Campaign is an international campaign to end the sex trafficking of Filipinas abroad. Spearheaded by Gabriela, the campaign aims to create awareness of the violence inflicted on women and "bring together a broad number of people against global sex trade."

Unique

The monologues will be interspersed with song, dance, music and visual images that will reflect women's issues especially in the Philippines. Some of the biggest names in show business and theater will be performing, including Shamaine Centenera-Buencamino, Irma Adlawan-Marasigan, Madeleine Nicolas. Singers Coritha and Cynthia Alexander and Gabriela's singing group, Sining Lila, will provide the music in this one-of-a-kind performance.

MTV Veejay Belinda Panelo and newcomers Jenny Jamora and Angela Padilla will be part of the show.

Monsod and Aristorenas will also be featured. Award-winning movie actress Cherie Gil will be the special guest of the evening.

NVC's artistic director and actress Monique Wilson will direct.

One of the numbers that will be presented is a song and dance movement called "Rosa Luna." It is an original work on the life of Mama Rosa, the first Filipino comfort woman to speak of the atrocities committed against Filipino women during World War II.

In a news conference, some of the performers shared their "qualms" about doing the show. Lynn Sherman initially "could not even tell my mom the title of the show."

Gil, fresh from her victorious performance in "Sugatang Puso," said she is "intimidated" by the idea of working with all the other theater thespians. But she said "saying the word vagina is a liberating feeling."

Wilson said they chose to include song and dance numbers to "localize the focus on issues" since our "realities are unique." Purists, she said, should not worry since the show would still be consistent with the original spirit of the play.

WILSON

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THE PLAYS

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El Filibusterismo, a critically acclaimed novel, has gained international recognition. It's revolutionary flavor aroused and influenced the radical spirit of the people during the Spanish time.

Florante at Laura is a play by Francisco "Balagtas" Baltazar. It shows how love transcends all boundaries. 2 young lovers tread the pathway of challenges. Love was threatened, but triumphed in the end.

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Movie industry a family divided over Erap

BY ISKHO F. LOPEZ

I WILL miss having Erap around.

For a while there—and I'm sure many will agree—Erap gave meaning to our lives at least for the last four months. Was it not kind of fulfilling to find out what Erap joke was coming when one's cellphone signaled an incoming text message?

Of course, I wanted the second envelope opened. Just as earlier, I agreed with the House prosecutors about taking a tour of the mansions. I didn't quite understand the arguments presented by the defense on the materiality or relevance of this or that evidence.

Still, I followed the development from Day One with near-obsession, initially with an open mind and a deliberate attempt at being partial. I took to heart the role of a judge and gave the respondent the benefit of the doubt. And many observed correctly that the Impeachment Trial proved to be better than any other *telenovela* ever shown.

The entire process was most enlightening and I feel disheartened that it should come to an abrupt end. The day-to-day proceedings had all the elements of an exciting drama unfolding—suspense, betrayal, greed, comedy, conspiracy, etc.

The cast was made of a fantastic ensemble of characters, the major role being a head of state, the premier civil servant, who could stoop so low as to betray public trust and dare violate the Constitution he swore to protect.

Can you imagine a president charged with bribe-taking, high-stakes gambling and stock manipulation, along with drinking and womanizing? Can any other world leader dare beat that kind of a credential that Erap managed to muster for himself in the relatively short time he stayed in office? Was it an attempt to prove something?

Awesome role

Going by the description provided by the Articles of Impeachment, the role of the Erap character in this legal drama that unfolded before us on television was simply awesome. What we have here is a president with unprecedented guts—easily the kind of guy that everybody would love to hate with a passion. This passion translated to street demonstrations: People Power, the second edition.

Given a choice, I would have preferred to see the trial come to its logical conclusion. That goes to prove how impartial I was about the senator-judges and the impeachment court as an institution. Darn those 11 senators! *Naonse ang buong bayan!*

There were times when the defense and some senator-judges did suggest the possibility that many of us in the audience were, indeed dumb or just technically insane as the plot thickened.

The issue clearly divided the nation between those who thought Erap should be convicted, guilty as charged, and those who maintained that he was innocent and deserved an acquittal.

The Erap issue divided families and even communities as the President campaigned for support in a desperate effort to clean up his image by publicity. The intention was to start a major war between the rich and the poor.

Underhanded move

And speaking of families divided, Erap's roots in show biz were first to indicate unrest. Expectedly, the movie industry's old guards tried to rally support through the Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP).

Unsurprisingly, the move was promptly denounced as underhanded by militant members of the Directors' Guild of the Philippines Inc. (DGPI). As a result, the DGPI recently made formal its move to break away from the FAP, a move that now signals the need for the FAP to seriously reconsider its leadership.

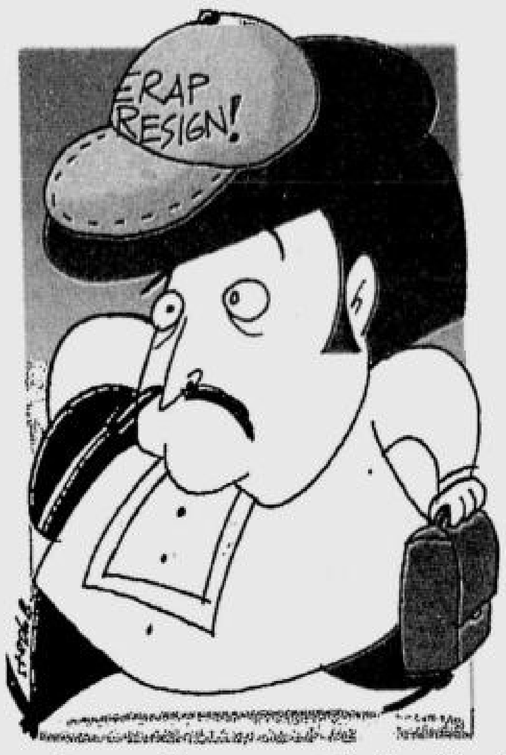
It didn't help that Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) chair Armida Siguion-Reyna went all-out for Estrada, even taunting the opposing members of the movie community to try and live with the idea that "my President still has three more years to go in office."

And not wanting to make matters even worse for the former movie actor-turned-President, a good number of show biz personalities opted to play it safe and shied away from discussing politics.

"Let the constitutional process prevail," they agreed. But speaking on conditions of confidentiality, many shared the prevailing views of a disgusted thinking majority.

Artists, 'artistas'

There were those who were more vocal with their views, like the outspoken Behn Cervantes, who went on to make a distinction between the "artists" and the "artistas" in show business. There, too, were People Power I veterans like Danny Javier, Jim Paredes and Boboy Garovillo of the Apo Hiking Society, and Mitch Valdez, Maan Hontiveros, Gary Granada, Tessie Tomas, etc.


ERAP RESIGN!

While they were not as visible, it was made clear by their respective espouses on whose side were Vilma Santos and Sharon Cuneta. Batangas Rep. Ralph Recto figured prominently with the opposition while lawyer-broadcaster Kiko Pangilinan made known his anti-Erap stand.

Only when People Power 2 became a convincing option did more movie stars and other show biz personalities finally make their way to Edsa to join the swell of protests. The atmosphere was festive and the presence of recognizable faces lent the affair glitter associated with a social event.

"Practically everybody we read about in society columns are here," noted a known social butterfly. Stars provided entertainment on stage, and mingled with the crowd. And with black as "official color," the Edsa affair after dark was not much different from a regular rave night or street party over on Nakpil, only bigger, wilder, and louder.

Breaking away

On the second day of protest, Nora Aunor's presence was a highlight. It was a move long overdue, for she had indicated her disappointment with Erap as early as the latter part of 1998. In private conversations then, Aunor confided to friends that she wouldn't think twice about breaking away from Erap and even leading demonstrations should it become evident that the friend she helped get elected to the presidency was unlikely to keep his promise to help the poor.

She said then that it was not important that Erap was taking her for granted, and that all she was interested in was for him to keep his word. Still, knowing Erap better than most, she waited until the last minute to make a stand.

Fernando Poe Jr. has continued to maintain his silence. While he opted to distance himself from his buddy when the going turned rough and resisted pressures to make public his commitment, his real sentiments remain unclear to this day.

What happened was all too sad for the local movie industry, Erap's show biz family. As the main protagonist in this real-life political drama, Joseph Estrada maintained that, like in his movies, he expected to rise as the hero in the end.

That was the movie in his mind. Unfortunately, the Filipino people had taken over the writing of the screenplay, forcing him to accept an altogether different ending.

And true to his movie hero image, Estrada emerged from the Presidential Residence that fateful Saturday afternoon ready for his close-up. A dignified exit was all he wanted—but the only option left at that moment was a hurried exit through the back door of Malacañang.

Sad scene

As the fallen President and members of his family were escorted by the military to a waiting barge, the incessant call of protesters outside the palace gates continued, echoing the loud cries of the triumphant Edsa crowd welcoming Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as the new President. He certainly was not sailing to a new frontier against a visual sunset. The Pasig River was its usual murky self, reflecting somber dark clouds in midday.

It was a sad closing scene for the story of Joseph Estrada, the big screen hero who went on to realize a bigger role in real life, in fact, the biggest role there was for any citizen, in a true-to-life story that the rest of us can only fantasize about.

But generations to come can surely learn from his story and the incredible manner he went on to outdo himself in wasting the fine opportunities that came his way.

As the presidency may indeed be a matter of destiny, we learn from history that what a president makes of his role is not necessarily part of destiny's package, as the story of Erap Estrada reveals. I wonder what the sequel to our continuing political struggle is going to be like.

And, yes, while I miss Erap already, it's quite a relief to know that we are moving on.

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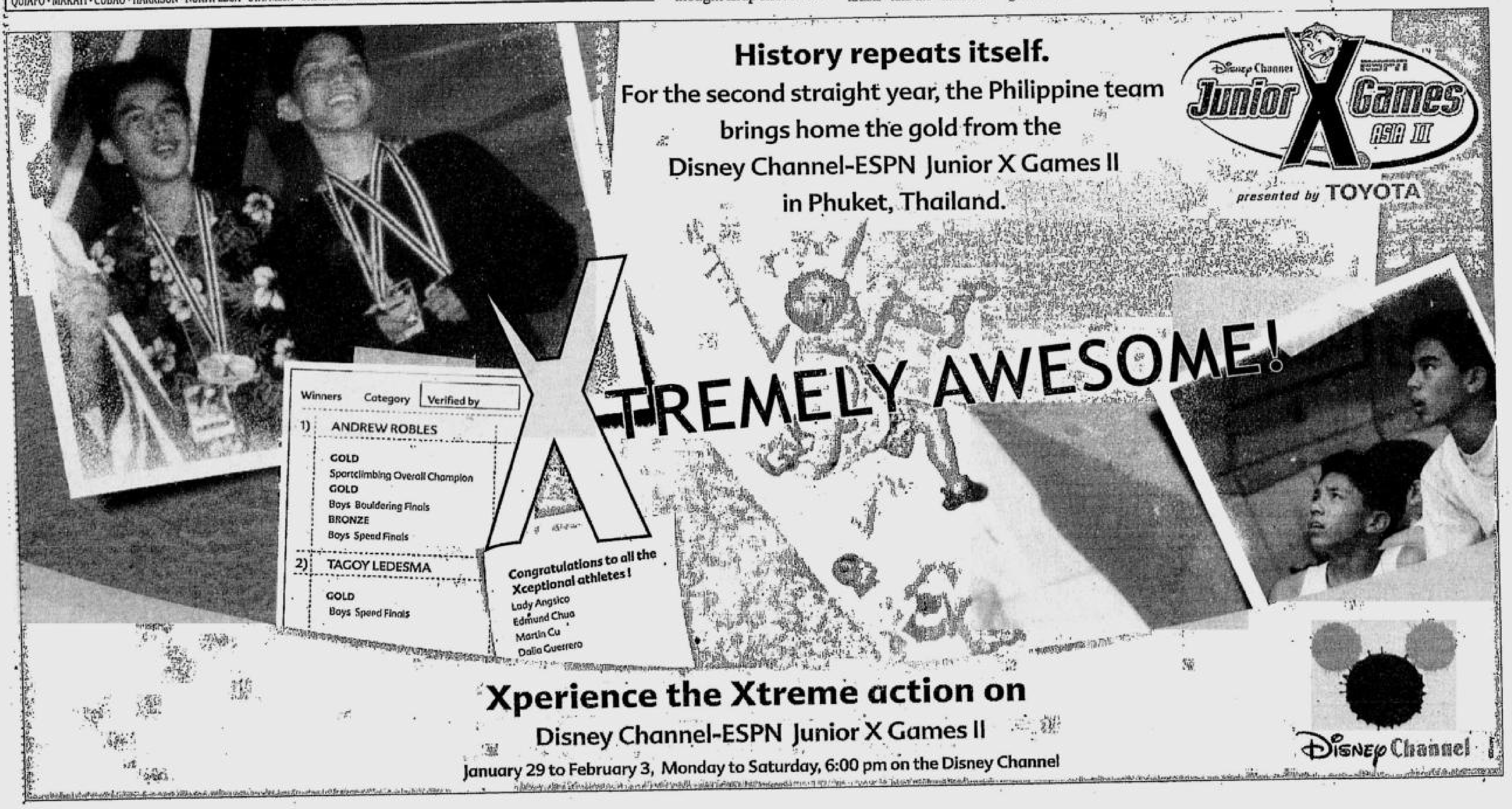
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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ▧ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

Erap woes pull down growth

ECONOMIC growth ground to a near-halt in the fourth quarter as a political crisis drove foreign investors away, industrial production slowed and a swelling budget deficit curbed government spending.

Gross domestic product rose 0.2 percent from the previous quarter, seasonally adjusted, slowing from the third quarter's 1.1-percent pace, the National Statistical Coordination Board said.

From a year earlier the economy grew 3.6 percent, compared with a revised 4.6 percent in the third quarter and economists' expectations of 3.5-percent growth.

Political uncertainty fueled by former President Estrada's impeachment trial pushed the peso to record lows and battered the stock market last quarter. Though Estrada's ouster last week ended the crisis, his successor, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, won't have an easy time reviving one of Asia's weakest economies.

Investors have so far cheered Ms Macapagal's appointment, lifting the peso and the stock market. An impeachment trial against Estrada, who faced charges he took at least $6 million in gambling payoffs and skimmed tax money, culminated earlier this month in public demonstrations calling for his ouster.

Ms Macapagal inherits an economy threatened by a widening budget deficit, accelerating inflation and slowing exports. Though interest rates are falling, they may still be too high to get companies investing in their businesses—the key overnight lending rate is still at 14.25 percent, even after six rate cuts in less than two months.

Industry expanded just 0.1 percent last quarter, seasonally adjusted, down from a 0.8-percent gain in the third quarter.

Manufacturers "were seeing consumer spending going down, interest rates going up and the peso falling," said Donald Dee, president of the Employers' Confederation of the Philippines. "It was too risky to produce because you weren't sure you'd be able to sell your products."

Though investment growth accelerated last quarter, most of the money came from exporters, not companies producing for the domestic market, Dee said. Corporate investment rose 3.7 percent from a year earlier, compared with a 2 percent gain in the third quarter.

Gross national product, which includes wage remittances from overseas workers, rose 4.4 percent in the fourth quarter from the same period a year earlier, the statistics board said.

For all of 2000, the economy grew 3.9 percent from 1999, compared with the previous government's 4-percent target.

Bloomberg

Economy seen expanding 3.8% this year

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

THE ECONOMY is expected to expand by 3.8 percent this year after growing by 3.9 percent last year, the new administration of President Gloria Macapagl-Arroyo said yesterday.

Economic officials said at a media briefing that growth this year would be powered by a resumption of foreign portfolio and direct investments following the resolution of the political crisis, which erupted in October 2000.

"We are looking at a target of GDP growth

ECONOMY/ B3

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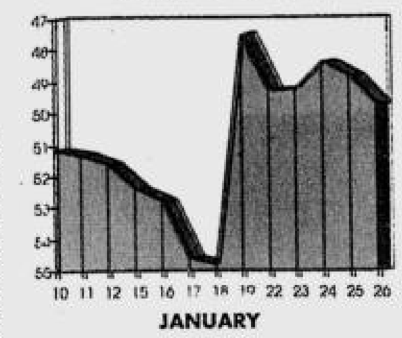
CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

P 49.72 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 26, 2001

¥ 116.72 = $1

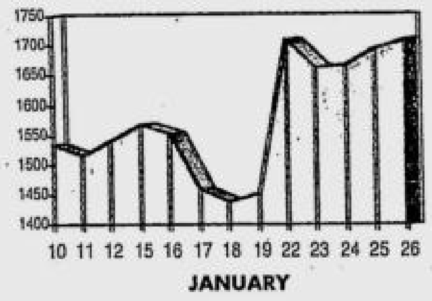
The US dollar was trading at 116.72 as of 5 p.m., Jan. 26, 2001

GOLD:$266.30/266.90

per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 22, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks up slightly

STOCKS closed slightly higher yesterday in see-saw trade with interest in key blue chips and some further bargain-hunting in lower liners keeping the main index in positive territory, traders said.

The 33-share main index closed up 15 points, or 0.89 percent, at 1,708.18.

Turnover rose sharply to P6.07 billion from P826.54 million on Thursday, boosted by significant cross trades in both Manila Electric Co. and San Miguel shares.

After rising over one percent in the first hour and a half the main index drifted briefly into negative territory before rebounding slightly by the close.

Traders said the pullback might have reflected some light profit-taking as investors rotated among blue chips and lower liners.

They said GDP data for 2000 and the government's economic projections for this year, including a worst-case scenario budget deficit figure of P209 billion, have been largely discounted.

The central bank's overnight rate cut announcement helped some property counters, they said.

"Second-line property stocks are still benefiting (from the rate cut) and there was some further bargain-hunting among lower liners," All Asia Asset Management portfolio manager Albert Chua, who manages funds totalling around P150 million, said. *Reuters*

US growth slowed 'close to zero'

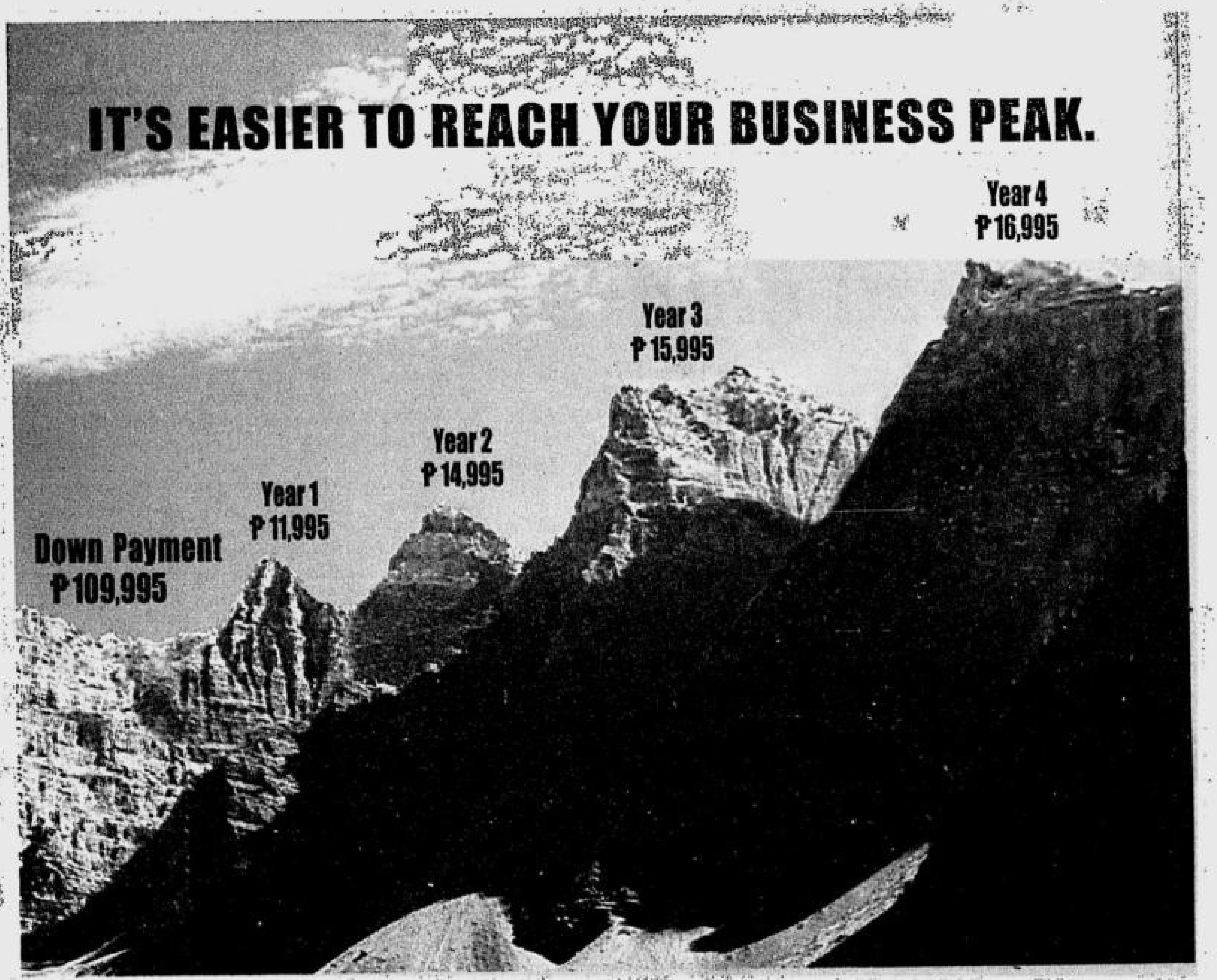
THE US economy's growth rate has fallen "close to zero" and may slow further if consumer confidence slumps, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said.

That suggests he'll push for another half-percentage point cut in the Fed's benchmark lending rate next week, analysts said.

Greenspan's comments came as he told Congress he supports using tax cuts to return a portion of the swelling budget surplus to taxpayers because the government's debt is likely to be paid off sooner than previously thought.

The US is undergoing an "inventory correction" that he said may "get resolved in about three months." If consumer spending falters, that would increase the chance the economy will slide into recession.

"What he said suggested there's a pretty good case for being more aggressive" as the economy slows, said Bill Dudley, chief economist at Goldman Sachs in New York. "The Fed doesn't think it'll culminate in recession but they can't be sure," he said. *Bloomberg*



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Ranger XL 4x2	109,995	11,995	14,995	15,995	16,995
Ranger XLT 4x2	129,995	14,695	17,695	18,695	19,695
Ranger XLT 4x4	169,995	17,995	22,995	24,995	25,995

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Ford Makati, 2287 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City 1231, Trunk Line: 818-5555; Fax No.: 815-0513

Where credit is queue

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

AS a long tradition in the military, generals have the duty to face the cameras every now and then so that, right before the public, they can kiss and make lov . . . este, up—kiss and make up.

Such a display of manly, well, shall we say, "affection" immediately tells the people that even generals are in touch with their feminine side. In a way, it says that generals do not spend all their time just thinking of the fastest way to castrate the enemy.

Sometimes, they also fight among themselves over credit for such heroism as getting involved in politics. To which, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a former Armed Forces chief of staff himself, reacted with this philosophical hypothesis: "It's dangerous."

Of course, it does not apply to retired generals like Biazon. The man was elected into office legitimately. *Walang daya*! Not that other generals cheat. It's just that if generals want to join politics, they must also follow the electoral process.

They can't just go around visiting their friends in active duty while plotting to overthrow the government with the use of the "old boy's club" culture in the military, thereby deciding by themselves to reverse some stupid election results.

That's why an editorial of the global newspaper International Herald Tribune didn't mince words in writing about the ouster of former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada—aka the man named Band . . . Wrist Band. It called the ouster a coup d'etat!

***

ANYWAY, military coup or not, the ouster was already accomplished. The only question was, at least in the minds of some generals, where the credit was due. It was such a big issue that it could alter the course of the Milo marathon in the next several years.

For at the very heart of it was a troubling issue that can be summed up in a word: REWARD. As you know, the queue is going longer by the day for encashing credit for the installation of a new administration under acting President Gloria-etta.

Note that the queue for the position BIR commissioner went from the Palace gates to another nearby galaxy. Do you think that, since Gloria-etta's biggest headache is poor tax collection, the applicants are moved by patriotism to take on the challenge?

But trust the generals to end quickly any issue over credit collection. It already ended the other day. All that Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes and Lt. Gen. Edgardo Espinosa had to do was to, er, hug each other before the cameras.

After all, as Espinosa saw it, the credit actually belonged to the people who massed up at one street corner after the military was able to rationalize its declaration that it finally was getting involved in politics. I wonder what Mr. Gobbledygook would say about that.

***

THAT'S why I could admire the so-called Spice Boys in the House of Representatives. They are those young, neophyte congressmen who, from the start of the Wrist Band administration, never hid their tendencies. I mean, as oppositionists.

While politicos swarmed the landscape there at Edsa last week, grabbing the microphone every now and then, talking about love of country like they had a lifetime supply of it, none of the Spice Boys got up the stage. They did not paper (*hindi pumapel*)!

Yet, were it not for the Spice Boys, the impeachment of Wrist Band would not have happened. After all, they were the first signatories of the impeachment case after the two minority floor leaders, Rep. Sergio Apostol and Rep. Feliciano Belmonte.

Not only that. They went on a house-to-house campaign among the congressmen, accounting for about 40 of the 73 necessary signatures for the impeachment. It was not an easy task. The House minority group numbered only 44 congressmen at that time.

Of course, with the entry of Gloria-etta, alliances in the House should only change. That's the way it is in Pinoy politics. The mainstream political opposition gets so emaciated, actual opposition takes place in the streets.

For the benefit of those who are voting in May, I must name the Spice Boys. They are Rolando Andaya, Ace Barbers, Hernani Braganza, Mike Defensor, Magtanggol Gunigundo III, Ricky Sandoval and Miguel Zubiri.

It's comforting to think that they are the future of politics.

JURADO OUT, AUSSIE IN

ETPI board names new chair

THE BOARD of directors of Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc. has appointed a new chair to reflect Australian Gigahertz Network Pty. Ltd.'s acquisition of a majority stake in the company.

An internal memo obtained yesterday by the INQUIRER said newspaper columnist Emiliano Jurado resigned effective Thursday as chair of ETPI, yielding his post to Australian Gigahertz's Richard Freyer.

Jurado said Australian Gigahertz's acquisition of a 40-percent stake in ETPI last year and another 17.7-percent stake from Aerocom Investors and Managers Inc. early this year had given the Australian firm control of ETPI.

"As a gesture of appreciation for their optimistic stance regarding investment prospects in our country, I have decided to offer to relinquish the chairmanship of the ETPI board to Dr. Richard Freyer," he said in the memo.

"The prominence of an Australian investor in our board serving as chairman would, in my view, underscore the budding positive business atmosphere in our country."

Jurado would remain in the five-man ETPI board, according to the memo.

Apart from Freyer and Jurado, the other members of the board were Rob Murdoch of Australian Gigahertz; lawyer Salvador Hizon, president of ETPI; and Pablo Lobregat, president of Aerocom.

Lobregat would have to give up his seat as soon as Australian Gigahertz completes its acquisition of Aerocom's 17.7-percent stake in ETPI through its local partner, PRN Philippines Inc.

A source familiar with the negotiations said the deal involving Aerocom's 17.7-percent stake should be completed by March and that the board

ETPI/ B3

SEC shuts down company forging int'l drivers' permits

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is shutting down the American Automobile International Inc. for allegedly misrepresenting itself as an issuer of international drivers' permits.

In an order issued Wednesday, the SEC said AAI was allowed only to print international drivers' permits. Nowhere in its charter was the company allowed to itself issue these permits, the commission said.

An investigation carried out by the Philippine Center on Transnational Crime, an agency under the Office of the President, showed that AAI allegedly misrepresented itself as an affiliate of AAI-USA, which had a certificate of qualification issued by the State of Nevada.

The PCTC also learned that AAI's advertisements claimed that the company had authority to issue international drivers' permits in Asia, the United States, Canada and Europe, and hire representatives to issue these permits.

The transnational crime committee cited a report by Interpol's Saipan office regarding a Korean selling fraudulent international drivers' permits from a store in Saipan. The permits were shown to be printed in the Philippines by AAI.

"As confirmed, AAI is charging around P4,000 for its issuance of supposed IDPs. Through these misrepresentations, AAI has been able to collect such amount from unsuspecting customers. Sadly, such IDPs are not recognized in other territories as AAI purports it to be," the SEC said.

The commission said AAI exceeded the authority and purpose for which it was incorporated when it issued supposedly fake international drivers' permits.

The SEC said AAI violated Section 45 of the Corporation Code of the Philippines, and ruled that such a violation was a ground for suspension and revocation of its corporate franchise.

"Finally, the unabated performance of the same would also work as a serious misrepresentation detrimental to the interest of the transacting public, necessitating the issuance of a cease-and-desist order by this commission," it added.

PLDT, Pasi hold joint satellite talks

THE PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. would explore the possibility of forming a joint venture with Philippine Agila Satellite Inc. to launch a new telecom satellite, a person familiar with the matter said yesterday.

The source said PLDT received a proposal regarding the use of Pasi's 161 degrees East longitude orbital slot.

PLDT earlier said it was also interested in obtaining an orbital slot at 147 degrees East longitude. The Philippines has been coordinating with other countries in Asia in the region to secure use of this location.

PLDT subsidiary Mabuhay Philippines Satellite Corp.'s Agila II satellite is currently occupying an orbital slot owned by Indonesia.

The source said PLDT and Pasi did not set a deadline in their discussions. Pasi's orbital slot, he said, was ready to be occupied.

The Department of Transportation and Communications still has a long way to go to secure the 147 degrees East longitude orbital slot, and any company planning to use it may have to shell out millions of dollars for coordination alone.

An orbital slot can actually "house" more than one satellite since it has a width of 4,000 kilometers.

The source said Pasi could work out a joint-venture satellite with PLDT.

Mabuhay president Gabriel Pimentel confirmed that Pasi had initiated talks with PLDT.

"(However), it has been a long time since we talked with Pasi. We're not really thinking about it right now," he said.

◆ Last month, the DOTC asked nine telecom companies to submit proposals to secure an orbital slot that they can use to augment the services they provide.

Mitsubishi raises sales forecast

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MITSUBISHI Motors Philippines Corp. has raised its sales growth forecast from flat to 15 percent this year, citing falling interest rates and renewed consumer enthusiasm over the new administration.

Mitsubishi Philippines first vice president for marketing Melchor Dizon said the industry was compelled to recast its sales projections this year in light of the drastic turn of events over the last few days.

Dizon said the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. was expecting sales to either remain flat or slip back by 5 percent from last year mainly due to the worsening political crisis that arose from former President Joseph Estrada's Senate corruption trial.

With Estrada's ouster through a peaceful revolt and with the new administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo taking over, Dizon said consumers were likely to troop back to showrooms to make their purchases.

"The rise of a new administration alone should boost sales substantially this year," he said.

Dizon said he expected sales of both passenger cars and commercial vehicles to increase by 15 percent to 96,600 units from 84,000 last year. This figure was much better than the industry's 12.8-percent growth rate last year.

He noted, however, that this forecast was still way off the industry's peak of roughly 150,000 in 1997 and less than half of the industry's installed capacity of over 200,000.

He said the return of consumer confidence should be bolstered by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' decision to maintain a low interest rate regime amid a weak peso.

MITSUBISHI/ B3

SEC says it may alter full collateral policy

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is considering altering the full collateralization policy for the mark-to-market collateral deposit system it has required the Philippine Stock Exchange's clearing arm, the Securities Clearing Corp. of the Philippines, to implement by Thursday next week.

The SCCP has asked the SEC to exempt from the collateral requirement all net negative exposures by member brokers that fall below P1 million.

SCCP president Ramon Garcia said in a letter to SEC Chair Lilia Bautista on Monday that a three-month study showed that 76 PSE member-brokers calculated net negative exposures of less than P1 million each and a total average of P7.365 million taken collectively.

Garcia argued for the exemption of brokers with a net negative exposure of P1 million below by pointing out that it was not cost-efficient on the part of the SCCP to be collecting collateral from an average of 76 brokers daily as it would take many hours to complete.

He also noted that there were instances when it was not cost-efficient for brokers incurring the minimum amount of exposure to pay collateral to the SCCP.

In response to the SCCP's request, the SEC market regulation department asked the commissioners to require member-brokers, through one-time contributions, to put up a trust fund totaling P15 million for the sole purpose of covering net negative exposures amounting to P1 million or below.

DISCLOSURES

ANDREW Ho has resigned as director of **Acesite (Philippines) Hotel Corp.** to devote more of his time to other business concerns. Chen Peng Jing was elected to replace him.

* * *

UNIOIL Resources and Holdings Co. Inc. said it was not aware of any information, event or transaction that caused a 50-percent increase in its share price.

* * *

THE FOLLOWING have resigned as directors of **Republic Cement Corp.**: George Letham, Ana Pastalero, Alfonso Recto Jr., Jocelyn Sanchez-Salazar and James Wilson. Elected to replace them were Alistair Cox, Andrew Cunningham, Leonardo Siguion-Reyna, Jose Sio and Renato Sunico.

* * *

FIL-ESTATE Corp. said it was unaware of any information relating to the unusual movements in the trading of its shares on Wednesday.

* * *

THE MANAGEMENT of **Megaworld Corp.** has not firmed up any plan or decision with respect to its shareholdings in **Fairmont Holdings Inc.** It is in the process of studying available options to determine which direction to take in the best interest of its shareholders as well as of Fairmont.

Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, January 26, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	6.90	8	6.9	8	11,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	175.0	175	175	175	250
Bank of the Phil. Islands	71.50	72.5	71.5	72	518,700
China Banking Corp.	750.0	750	750	750	400
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	59.00	60	58.5	58.5	505,500
First E-Bank Corp.	2.00	2	2	2	17,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	240.0	242	238	240	31,210
Philippine National Bank	32.50	33.5	31	31	448,200
Phil. Savings Bank	30.00	30	30	30	200
Rizal Comm'l. Bkg. Corp. "A"	28.00	28	28	28	100
Union Bank of the Phil.	33.00	33	32	32	2,100
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.74	1.76	1.7	1.7	936,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	.3800	.38	.38	.38	50,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1300	1310	1300	1310	5,080
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.22	1.3	1.22	1.3	134,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1100	1110	1100	1100	29,340
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	50.00	50.5	49	50	55,800
Diversified Fin. Network	9.70	10	9.7	9.8	2,440,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	.7300	.73	.67	.68	8,040,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	760.0	770	760	770	380
Island Info and Tech Inc.	.0725	.075	.07	.07	46,600,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	.4700	.47	.47	.47	30,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	4.10	4.1	4	4	8,000
Piltel	.7200	.74	.69	.7	1,260,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	.4500	.45	.45	.45	40,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	910.0	930	910	930	36,140
Ivantage Corp.	1.18	1.24	1.12	1.14	5,260,000
Philweb.com Inc.	.0750	.085	.075	.0825	1,013,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. "A"	57.00	57	56	56	52,000
Manila Electric Co. "B"	62.00	63	61	62	2,681,400
Petron Corp.	1.96	2.08	1.96	2.08	27,755,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	.9900	.99	.99	.99	30,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.10	1.1	1.08	1.08	6,034,000
Int'l Container Term'l SV	1.16	1.32	1.16	1.32	16,927,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	.4700	.59	.47	.59	320,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	19,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	.2400	.25	.24	.24	320,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	.5200	.59	.52	.58	9,060,000
Union Cement Corp.	.7000	.75	.65	.65	3,020,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.20	2.3	2.18	2.3	101,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	2.70	2.7	2.65	2.7	67,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.50	11.75	11.5	11.75	160,500
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	37.00	37	36	36	348,000
Pancake House Inc.	1.58	1.6	1.58	1.6	52,000
RFM Corp.	1.06	1.08	1	1	5,715,000
San Miguel Corp. "A"	50.00	50	49.5	50	75,600
San Miguel Corp. "B"	59.00	61.5	59	61	78,623,400
Universal Robina Corp.	5.00	5.5	5	5.5	51,000
Vitarich Corp.	.4700	.47	.46	.46	230,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	9.90	10	9.9	10	6,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg "A"	.5500	.6	.55	.57	310,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	.5700	.59	.57	.59	20,000
Ayala Corp.	8.40	8.5	8.3	8.4	4,232,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.62	1.62	1.6	1.6	1,819,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.75	13	12.5	12.75	26,100
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.14	1.26	1.12	1.22	2,006,000
A. Soriano Corp.	.3500	.35	.33	.33	220,000
APC Group Inc.	.2700	.29	.27	.27	1,680,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	.0060	.006	.0055	.0055	21,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.80	2.8	2.8	2.8	10,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	2.00	2	2	2	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.15	3.2	3.05	3.1	12,575,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	.2400	.24	.2	.2	390,000
Crown Equities Inc.	.3000	.34	.3	.3	2,830,000
Southeast Asian Cement	.2400	.24	.24	.24	400,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	.5000	.58	.5	.58	8,620,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	.1900	.22	.19	.2	6,720,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	.0625	.0625	.06	.06	3,200,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	1.80	1.9	1.8	1.9	10,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.10	1.36	1.1	1.36	15,900,000
First Phil. Hldgs. Corp.	24.75	25	24.5	24.5	281,100
Forum Pacific Inc.	.2500	.34	.25	.34	680,000
Global Equities Inc.	.4200	.45	.41	.41	4,840,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	.3100	.33	.31	.32	870,000
Ionics Inc.	15.00	15.25	15	15	177,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.46	2.6	3,565,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.20	2.3	2.2	2.3	140,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. "A"	.0220	.022	.022	.022	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	.9400	1.06	.94	1.06	55,200,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	.2100	.23	.21	.23	300,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	.3100	.32	.31	.32	1,260,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	.6900	.72	.69	.71	38,630,000
Solid Group Inc.	.7500	.79	.7	.76	7,720,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	.2000	.2	.2	.2	220,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	.4500	.46	.42	.42	26,350,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	.4500	.47	.42	.47	230,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	.3300	.38	.31	.36	8,040,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
A Brown Company Inc.	.7500	.75	.7	.7	240,000
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	10,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	4,000
Macondray Plastics Inc.	6.50	6.5	6.5	6.5	3,000
Music Corp.	3.50	3.65	3.5	3.5	1,260,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	.5700	.61	.57	.61	20,000
Picop Resources Inc.	.1600	.17	.15	.15	5,370,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.20	10	9.2	10	502,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	.7000	.75	.7	.75	33,710,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	.7500	.86	.73	.85	33,790,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	.6000	.65	.6	.64	10,530,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	.3100	.46	.31	.38	440,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	49.50	50.5	49.5	49.5	217,900
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	560.0	560	530	530	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank-War	4.10	4.1	3.7	3.7	160,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (PDR)	740.0	780	720	780	1,830
Jollibee Warrants	11.25	11.25	11	11.25	173,200
Macroasia Corp. Warrants	.3500	.36	.35	.36	370,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	.0040	.0042	.0038	.0038	1,098,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series I	10.00	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.50	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.50	10.5	10.5	10.5	5,500
Waterfront Phils.-Warrant	.0650	.0675	.065	.0675	400,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.00	7	6.8	6.9	17,568,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	.4300	.48	.43	.48	670,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	.4500	.47	.45	.47	860,000
C & P Homes Inc.	.3900	.42	.38	.39	53,000,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	.5200	.59	.52	.55	3,610,000
Empire East Land Inc.	.5100	.54	.5	.51	35,570,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.30	2.75	2.3	2.75	53,340,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	.0500	.0525	.05	.05	3,800,000
Gotesco Land Inc. "B"	.0500	.0525	.05	.05	2,200,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	.8500	.85	.85	.85	359,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	.2000	.21	.2	.21	1,880,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	.5400	.65	.54	.55	2,850,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	.5500	.57	.55	.55	1,250,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	.1850	.19	.185	.19	40,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.14	2.14	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.90	7.1	6.7	6.9	7,773,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	.1250	.145	.125	.14	22,820,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	.4700	.47	.47	.47	10,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	.0075	.0075	.007	.0075	18,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	.0075	.0075	.0075	.0075	3,000,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	.0065	.0065	.006	.006	67,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	5,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines "A"	.0230	.024	.022	.022	14,700,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines "B"	.0250	.025	.021	.022	3,500,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. "A"	.2000	.2	.2	.2	80,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. "B"	.2300	.23	.21	.23	1,050,000
Manila Mining Corp. "A"	.0070	.007	.007	.007	16,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. "B"	.0075	.0075	.0075	.0075	20,000,000
Omico Corp.	.0055	.006	.005	.0055	570,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't. Corp.	.0240	.027	.024	.024	18,500,000
Philex Mining Corp. "A"	.2500	.25	.22	.22	210,000
Philex Mining Corp. "B"	.2450	.26	.245	.26	1,160,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	.1800	.19	.18	.18	250,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	.0330	.036	.033	.036	101,200,000
Interport Res.	.0075	.0075	.0075	.0075	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. "A"	.0065	.0075	.0065	.0065	64,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. "B"	.0065	.0065	.0065	.0065	18,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. "A"	.3300	.33	.33	.33	100,000
Pacifica	.0220	.023	.021	.022	212,900,000
Sinophil Corp.	.1050	.135	.105	.12	16,520,000
Vulcan Ind'l.	.2500	.29	.25	.28	1,420,000

CURRENCIES

Jan. 26, 2001 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.081666	1.000000	48.6380
Japan	Yen	0.009258	0.008559	0.4163
United Kingdom	Pound	1.580206	1.460900	71.0553
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.138686	0.128215	6.2361
Switzerland	Franc	0.655475	0.605987	29.4740
Canada	Dollar	0.717761	0.663570	32.2747
Singapore	Dollar	0.621076	0.574185	27.9272
Australia	Dollar	0.588758	0.544307	26.4740
Bahrain	Dinar	2.869293	2.652661	129.0201
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.288406	0.266631	12.9684
Brunei	Dollar	0.619298	0.572541	27.8472
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000115	0.000106	0.0052
Thailand	Baht	0.025167	0.023267	1.1317
UAE	Dirham	0.294507	0.272272	13.2428
Korea	Won	0.000848	0.000784	0.0381
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.924500	44.9658

Group backs Bangko Sentral head

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MAKATI Business Club yesterday called on the Macapagal administration to honor the tenure of Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura and the members of the policy-making Monetary Board.

MBC Executive Director Guillermo Luz said replacing Buenaventura and five of the six members of the policy-making body with fixed "constitutional" terms would only sow unrest in the financial markets.

The BSP chief and members of the Monetary Board have a term of six years. Buenaventura's tenure would end in July 2005 while other monetary board members' terms have varying expirations.

"Buenaventura brings stability in the market by remaining in office. Removing him would only cause instability because his is not a political post," Luz said.

The spokesperson for the elite business club denied earlier reports quoting him that Buenaventura should be removed from BSP.

Sources said possible contenders for the BSP post were former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu, former Monetary Board members and National Economic and Development Authority chiefs Cayetano Paderanga Jr. and Solita Monsod. Also a candidate is BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

The BSP chief chairs the Monetary Board that counts as its members Melito Salazar, Vicente Valdepeñas, Teodoro Montecillo, Antonino Alindogan, and Juan Quintos. Salazar, Valdepeñas and Montecillo started serving the board during the time of former President Ramos.

A seat is reserved for an ex-officio member and this was earlier occupied by former Finance Secretary Jose T. Pardo.

The BSP chief had said he would not resign or even tender a courtesy resignation because doing so would send a wrong signal to foreign investors and to the financial markets.

"He is not even required to submit a courtesy resignation and it is improper for him to submit one. He enjoys similar constitutional privileges like that of the US Federal Reserve," said Luz.

The BSP is an autonomous body as provided in the Constitution alongside other institutions like the Commission on Elections and the Civil Service Commission, he added.

Some quarters are calling for Buenaventura to at least submit a courtesy resignation similar to what his predecessor, Gabriel Singson, did when former President Estrada came into power in 1998.

Luz explained that Singson's case was different since he really wanted to be coterminus with Ramos. Just the same, he said, the former BSP chief was prevailed upon to stay and to even extend his term.

The MBC, alongside multisectoral groups, had criticized the Macapagal administration for doling out government posts to members of the Lakas-NUCD Party.

The MBC official explained that most of the appointments handed down did not jibe with the findings of the five-member search committee that was tasked by President Macapagal-Arroyo to select the most qualified people for the job.

Luz cited the case of appointed Energy Secretary Jose Alcordo, president of East Asia Power Corp.

The DOE law requires the department secretary not to have had any involvement in the energy sector in the last two years prior to the appointment.

"The selection committee knows about these nuances that's why Alcordo is not even in the short list," Luz said.

Equitable PCI BANK

INVITATION TO BID

The ACQUIRED ASSETS DIVISION of Equitable PCIBank is inviting offers to purchase by the way of sealed bids, in cash and on "as-is-where-is" basis, the following real estate properties:

TCT NO./AREA (in sqms.)/DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	PRICE
I. METRO MANILA		
1) 15571-72/610 m2/res./comm'l. w/ impvt	No. 52 San Rafael St., Bo. Jolo, Mandaluyong City	P 27,824,150
2) 361667-68/3,870 m2/comm'l./res. w/ impvts.	Along Marcos Highway, Bgy. Mayamot, Antipolo, Rizal	24,959,886
3) 407166/540 m2/res. w/ impvts.	No. 17 Sunrise Drive, Beverly Hills Subd., Bgy. Beverly Hills, Antipolo City	2,347,000
II. PROVINCIAL		
1) T-484400-R-401-R/752 m2/res.	L12 Villa Victoria Subd., Bo. San Juan & Dolores, San Fernando. Pampanga	3,128,800
2) T-14566-69/1,920,000 m2/res./ind'l.	Bgy. Larap, Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte	37,881,638
3) T-14565 & T-14570/563,417 m2/res./ind'l.	Bgy. Larap, Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte	9,640,690
4) T-232646-48/5,733 m2/res.	Sta. Clara Subdivision, Banago, Bacolod City	18,236,400

Complete description/specifications of the above properties, rules & regulations on the bidding procedures and the prescribed bid forms are available from the following officers:

All Properties MS. BERNIE PEÑAFIEL/AVP/LUCHIE M. CASTILLO/AO/MAR M. RIPA/AO/ GISELLE P. ESPIRITU/AO/KAREN U. RESARI/AO -Tel. Nos. 817-2822/840-7644/817-4564/894-1910

Bidding will be held on Feb. 13, 2001 at 10:00 A.M., 11/F SAM Con. Rm., Equitable PCIBank Tower 1, Makati Ave., Makati City for all items. Bidders deposit equivalent to 10% of the minimum bid price in the form of cash or Manager's/Cashier's check together with the duly accomplished bid form must be enclosed in the sealed bid. All bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for submission of bids. All winning bids are subject to approval by the Bank's approving authority.

Economy seen expanding 3.8% this year

(From page B1)

of 3.8 percent for the year 2001," Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said.

The Philippines posted 3.3 percent growth in 1999.

Canlas said the economic program of the Macapagal administration was anchored on strengthening public finances conducive to growth and through long-term policy reforms designed for industrial restructuring.

He said the Estrada administration had left government finances "in a precarious state," adding that a huge government budget deficit and debt "pose risks to the recovery."

Canlas also said GNP should grow at least 4 percent in 2001 against the previous forecast of 3.2 to 3.7 percent.

Canlas said the government's budget deficit in 2001 should come in at P145 billion against an actual P136.11 billion in 2000.

However, he said the deficit could balloon to P209 billion if there was no improvement in revenue collection.

Although the P145 billion forecast was higher than the deficit in 2000, Canlas said it represented only 3.9 percent of forecast GNP in the year. This, he said, was lower than the 2000 deficit, which was 4.8 percent of GNP.

Canlas said consumer prices should rise by about 6-7 percent in 2001 against 4.4 percent last year.

Philippine exports in 2001 should be between 7.4 to 7.9 percent higher than in 2000, he said.

Canlas had said earlier that exports in 2000 should come in 16.4 percent higher than the $35.04 billion in 1999.

Export growth has been forecast to slow this year because of slowing demand in the United States, the Philippines' largest market.

ETPI board . . .

(From page B2)

would waive its right-of-first-refusal on this stake.

It was not known how much Aerocom was selling its 17.7-percent stake but it would involve more than 6 million shares in ETPI.

By tapping a local partner, Australian Gigahertz was able to go around a law that restrained foreign ownership of local utility firms to only 40 percent.

In June last year, Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc., a company controlled by retail tycoon John Gokongwei Jr., announced that it signed a deal to acquire Cable and Wireless Plc's 40-percent stake in ETPI for $18 million.

Gokongwei was hoping to expand Digitel's telecom and data network by acquiring ETPI.

ETPI was given a provisional authority to install landlines in Manila, Caloocan and Navotas towns in Metro Manila, and, for years, had exclusive control of Cable and Wireless' submarine cables linking the Philippines and Hong Kong.

The company is also a leading data provider and has been the first company to offer high-speed Internet services in the Philippines.

Manuel Nieto, a former crony of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos, blocked Gokongwei's bid to acquire ETPI using the 17.7-percent stake of Aerocom. Nieto exercised his right-of-first-refusal over Cable and Wireless' stake and offered to buy this stake.

Nieto's Aerocom teamed up with Australian Gigahertz and offered to buy Cable and Wireless' stake for $21 million, substantially higher than Gokongwei's offer price. *Anthony O. Alcantara*

Mitsubishi . . .

(From page B2)

But Dizon said he was hoping that the foreign exchange rate would stabilize or would not depreciate too drastically so that assemblers could avoid a price hike.

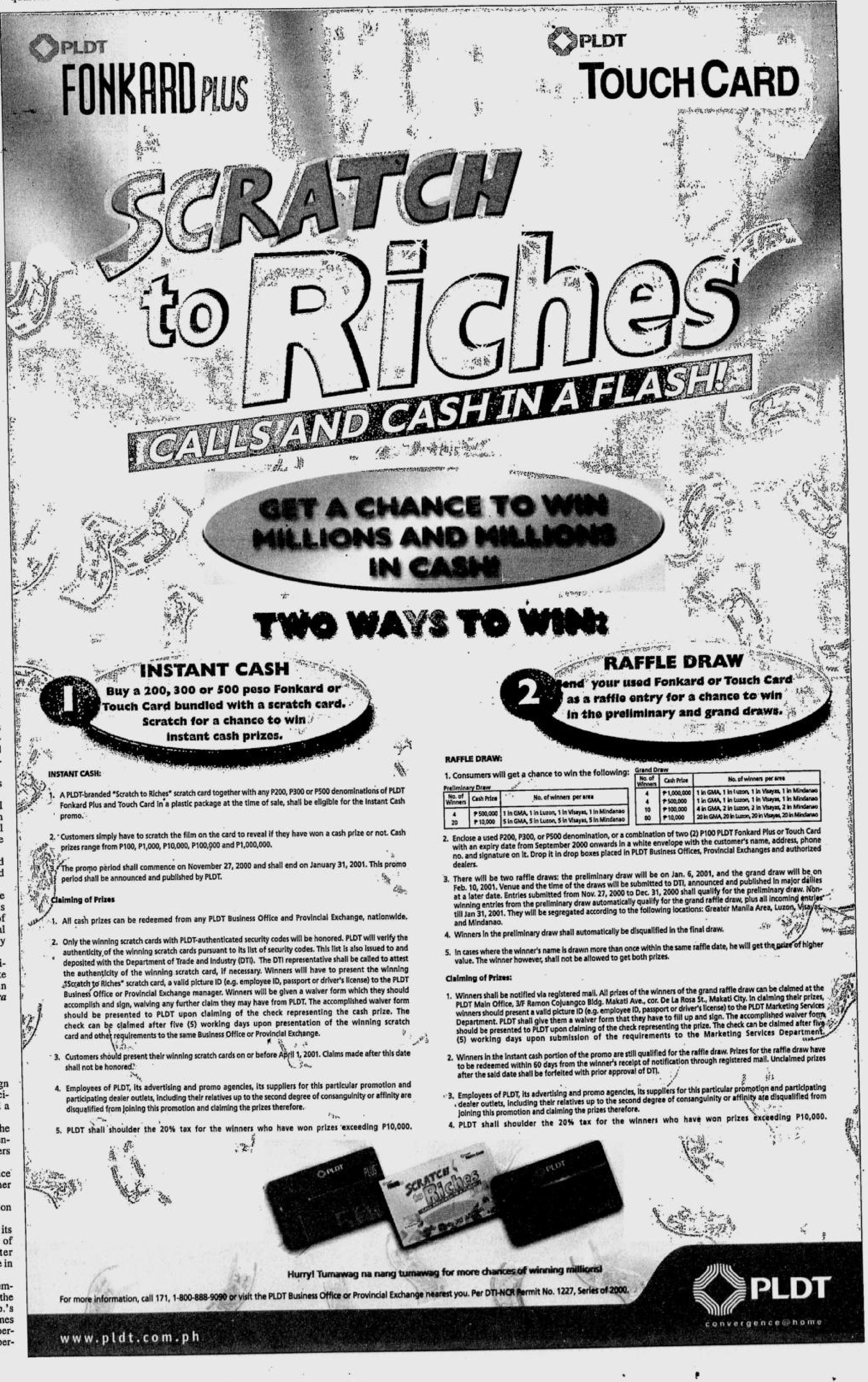
He said cheaper credit rates, which fueled the industry's boom years in 1996 and 1997, would encourage more first-time buyers as well as car owners to replace their units.

Dizon said assemblers were planning to introduce more new models this year, which should further entice more purchases.

Mitsubishi is planning to introduce a new version of the Adventure Asian utility vehicle this year.

Mitsubishi Motors is also looking forward to its eventual takeover of the exclusive distribution of Mercedes Benz vehicles in the country after DaimlerChrysler took a controlling minority stake in Mitsubishi Japan.

Mitsubishi is currently the second largest assembler in the Philippines with a 19-percent share of the market, behind Toyota Motor Philippines Corp.'s 28.6 percent and ahead of Honda Cars Philippines Inc.'s 15 percent, Isuzu Philippines Corp.'s 9.9 percent and Nissan Motor Co. Philippines Inc.'s 7.1 percent.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1. A PLDT-branded "Scratch to Riches" scratch card together with any P200, P300 or P500 denominations of PLDT Fonkard Plus and Touch Card in a plastic package at the time of sale, shall be eligible for the Instant Cash promo.
2. Customers simply have to scratch the film on the card to reveal if they have won a cash prize or not. Cash prizes range from P100, P1,000, P10,000, P100,000 and P1,000,000.
3. The promo period shall commence on November 27, 2000 and shall end on January 31, 2001. This promo period shall be announced and published by PLDT.

Claiming of Prizes

1. All cash prizes can be redeemed from any PLDT Business Office and Provincial Exchange, nationwide.
2. Only the winning scratch cards with PLDT-authenticated security codes will be honored. PLDT will verify the authenticity of the winning scratch cards pursuant to its list of security codes. This list is also issued to and deposited with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). The DTI representative shall be called to attest the authenticity of the winning scratch card, if necessary. Winners will have to present the winning "Scratch to Riches" scratch card, a valid picture ID (e.g. employee ID, passport or driver's license) to the PLDT Business Office or Provincial Exchange manager. Winners will be given a waiver form which they should accomplish and sign, waiving any further claim they may have from PLDT. The accomplished waiver form should be presented to PLDT upon claiming of the check representing the cash prize. The check can be claimed after five (5) working days upon presentation of the winning scratch card and other requirements to the same Business Office or Provincial Exchange.
3. Customers should present their winning scratch cards on or before April 1, 2001. Claims made after this date shall not be honored.
4. Employees of PLDT, its advertising and promo agencies, its suppliers for this particular promotion and participating dealer outlets, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining this promotion and claiming the prizes therefore.
5. PLDT shall shoulder the 20% tax for the winners who have won prizes exceeding P10,000.

RAFFLE DRAW:

1. Consumers will get a chance to win the following:

Preliminary Draw

No. of Winners	Cash Prize	No. of winners per area
4	₱500,000	1 in GMA, 1 in Luzon, 1 in Visayas, 1 in Mindanao
20	₱10,000	5 in GMA, 5 in Luzon, 5 in Visayas, 5 in Mindanao

Grand Draw

No. of Winners	Cash Prize	No. of winners per area
4	₱1,000,000	1 in GMA, 1 in Luzon, 1 in Visayas, 1 in Mindanao
4	₱500,000	1 in GMA, 1 in Luzon, 1 in Visayas, 1 in Mindanao
10	₱100,000	4 in GMA, 2 in Luzon, 2 in Visayas, 2 in Mindanao
80	₱10,000	20 in GMA, 20 in Luzon, 20 in Visayas, 20 in Mindanao

2. Enclose a used P200, P300, or P500 denomination, or a combination of two (2) P100 PLDT Fonkard Plus or Touch Card with an expiry date from September 2000 onwards in a white envelope with the customer's name, address, phone no. and signature on it. Drop it in drop boxes placed in PLDT Business Offices, Provincial Exchanges and authorized dealers.
3. There will be two raffle draws: the preliminary draw will be on Jan. 6, 2001, and the grand draw will be on Feb. 10, 2001. Venue and the time of the draws will be submitted to DTI, announced and published in major dailies at a later date. Entries submitted from Nov. 27, 2000 to Dec. 31, 2000 shall qualify for the preliminary draw. Non-winning entries from the preliminary draw automatically qualify for the grand raffle draw, plus all incoming entries till Jan 31, 2001. They will be segregated according to the following locations: Greater Manila Area, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.
4. Winners in the preliminary draw shall automatically be disqualified in the final draw.
5. In cases where the winner's name is drawn more than once within the same raffle date, he will get the prize of higher value. The winner however, shall not be allowed to get both prizes.

Claiming of Prizes:

1. Winners shall be notified via registered mail. All prizes of the winners of the grand raffle draw can be claimed at the PLDT Main Office, 3/F Ramon Cojuangco Bldg. Makati Ave., cor. De La Rosa St., Makati City. In claiming their prizes, winners should present a valid picture ID (e.g. employee ID, passport or driver's license) to the PLDT Marketing Services Department. PLDT shall give them a waiver form that they have to fill up and sign. The accomplished waiver form should be presented to PLDT upon claiming of the check representing the prize. The check can be claimed after five (5) working days upon submission of the requirements to the Marketing Services Department.
2. Winners in the instant cash portion of the promo are still qualified for the raffle draw. Prizes for the raffle draw have to be redeemed within 60 days from the winner's receipt of notification through registered mail. Unclaimed prizes after the said date shall be forfeited with prior approval of DTI.
3. Employees of PLDT, its advertising and promo agencies, its suppliers for this particular promotion and participating dealer outlets, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining this promotion and claiming the prizes therefore.
4. PLDT shall shoulder the 20% tax for the winners who have won prizes exceeding P10,000.

For more information, call 171, 1-800-888-9090 or visit the PLDT Business Office or Provincial Exchange nearest you. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1227, Series of 2000.

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P5,500/mo.CUBAO
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1400m² lot w/400m² warehouse - Mindanao Ave near Congressional Call Naomi at 927-4354

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SAMPALOC CALL 7135376

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J. Nakpil Malate Nr PWU GF 4 Rest/Off 532-4820 PM

MALATE G/F OFF. 5268048

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MAZDA

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MITSUBISHI

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'93 Mit S-Wagon 350T Call 634-8160

Galant 99 VR6 850T FLD at 0917-8192224 / 931-8609

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'96 Gli Corolla 350T Call 634-8160

ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be informed of our new classified advertising rates effective **February 1, 2001 issue.**

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L300 Van 5109530/8533103

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1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523-24

1.5% w/o taking car OR/CR R/EstateLoan LO%4154936

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2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 3670169

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5633742 5646593 09174383744

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MISCELLANEOUS

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SALES AGENT 718-0640

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Sales Assistant for Hardware, Const. Supply w/experience pref. living in South atleast 25 to 35 years old Contact Leo at Tel # 861-7842

Off Staff 9134470 Edward

URGENT Maid Family of 2 persons T-8975366

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Call JP Lazaro 240-3265

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

WANTED
2 Food Tech. Grad. 3-4 yrs exp. to head Prod. & QC for established food co. call Tel. -809-730607 Tessa

PUBLIC NOTICES

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RTW / Underwear 723-2959

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **JOSE S. PLANES JR.** has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 126; Page. 26; Book No. 1 Before Notary Public Arnulfo Q. Canivel at Pasay City (PDI-Jan. 27, Feb. 3, 10, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **CONCORDIA P. PORTACIO** has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc. No. 120; Page. 24; Book. No. 1 Before Notary Public Arnulfo Q. Canivel at Pasay City (PDI-Jan. 27, Feb. 3, 10, 2001)

The intestate estates of the deceased spouses **NEMESIO F. ANGCO** and **CENONA FIGUEROA-ANGCO** who died on 08 June 2000 and 17 August 1998, restectively, have been extrajudicially settled through a Deed of extra-judicial settlement executed by their heirs on 13 November 2000, which document is denominated as Doc. 194; Page. 40; Book. 1; Series of 2000 of Notary Public Glenda Isabel L. Biason (PDI-1/27, 2/3, 10, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given of the lost S2 Lic. 5024109 I in the name of **JOSEFINA A. MACARAIG.**

PERSONAL

European Female Escort Private Parties 09179824530

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY
O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I implore of you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle, even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. (Thank you very much for the graces.)

THANK YOU MAMA MARY

THANK YOU PAPA JESUS

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Excellent Opportunities in Canada

World Rich Technologies Inc. is a professional expanding business located in Toronto, Canada. Our continued success has shown we are the leading company in the Information Technical Industry related to the Internet with the best products and services. We are an established company with clients throughout North America and even worldwide.World Rich Technologies Inc. has chosen to give this great opportunity to join our dynamic team of professionals.

You will be offered excellent salary + benefits plus great growth potential within our company.

The following positions are available:

Intermediate Web Designer

Must have excellent skills in:
Macromedia Dreamweaver, Fireworks, Flash 4.0 (not essential).
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As an intermediate web designer you must have an excellent sense of design.

Web Developer/Programmer

Technical Requirements/experience:
Minimum of 6 months experience in the establishment and design of web sites.

Experience using JavaScript, CSS, VBScript, HTML, SSI, CGI scripting in ASP, php, encryption practices including SSL, and FTP.
Experience creating MS SQL databases.
Experience working with NT server 4.0, IIs.
Experience with web analyser tools and web site statistics.
Knowledge of Certificate Authority issuance and security (e-commerce).

Programmers will need to help stabilize current applications and operations. Application programming and trouble shooting on UNIX and NT platforms, working with scripting and C.

Please mail or courier your resumé (contact information and if possible provide email address, etc.) giving full details including your earliest availability to join our company along with a money order or bank draft of US$ 50 processing fee payable to World Rich Technologies Inc. must reach on the following address by February 15, 2001. Any applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

After receiving your resumé interview date and place will be advised.

World Rich Technologies Inc.
Suite # 201, 1840 Lawrence Ave. East
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Republic of the Pilipinas
PANGASIWAAN NG TUBIG AT
ALKANTARILYA SA METRO MANILA
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines

[illegible]
Tel. Nos. [illegible]
FAX No. [illegible]
Telex No. [illegible] MWSS PH

12 January 2001

INVITATION FOR QUALIFICATION AND BIDS

(Two-Envelope System)

A. Contract Nos. DS-6 (Package A to D) & DS-7 Proposed Construction of New Water Distribution Mains in Quezon City

B. Contract No. NC-06-CEP-005-00 (Package B, C & D) Proposed Replacement of Existing Water Main Lines in Tondo Sector, Manila (under ANRP)

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) thru its west zone concessionaire, MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC. (MWSI) will undertake the construction of the above contract packages under the Angat Water Supply Optimization Project (AWSOP) which will be financed in part by funds from Loan No. 986-PHI of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to the National Government and allocated to the MWSS as equity. It is intended that part of each Contractor's progress billing under the contracts for which this invitation for Qualification and Bids is issued will be paid directly by the Bank. The works for these projects shall include but is not limited to the supply of all labor, materials and equipment for the proposed construction of new water distribution mains for Contract Nos. DS-6 (Package A to D) & DS-7 and; replacement of existing pipelines through combination of open cut and trenchless pipe laying methods for Contract No. NC-06-CEP-005 (Package B, C and D) as follows:

Contract No./ Location	Pipe Size	Pipe Length (m)	Project Cost Estimate (Php)	Contract Duration
1. DS-6A / Quezon City	150mm0 PVC to 500mm0 SP.	4,436	26,498,750.00	120
2. DS-6B / Quezon City	300mm0 CI to 500mm0 SP	4,372	33,671,512.00	120
3. DS-6C / Quezon City	150mm0 PVC to 500mm0 SP	6,469	31,680,737.00	120
4. DS-6D / Quezon City	150mm0 PVC to 500mm0 SP	2,759	18,129,579.05	100
5. DS-7 / Quezon City	300mm0 PVC to 400mm0 SP	3,850	23,583,647.00	100
6. NC-06-CEP-005-00 package B/ Tondo, Mla.	100mm0 PVC to 600mm0 SP	4,810	26,000,000.00	120
7. NC-06-CEP-005-00 package C/ Tondo, Mla.	150mm0 PVC to 250mm0 CI/DI	5,625	30,000,000.00	120
8. NC-06-CEP-005-00 package D/ Tondo, Mla.	150mm0 PVC to 200mm0 PVC	5,860	28,000,000.00	120

Bidding is open to contractors and joint ventures of contractors who have previous experience with similar works.

All affiliated companies of MWSI are disqualified to bid. Affiliated companies are those over which the concessionaire exercises control of voting stocks or which operate with them as part of a system or enterprise. They shall include, but not be limited to those corporations which are subsidiaries owned or controlled by the concessionaire, or corporations in which the concessionaire has substantial interest.

Bidders may bid on any or all of the above contract packages tabulated above but award of contract will be limited to two (2) contract packages per bidder.

Interested eligible bidders will be required to submit their accomplished qualification document and bids at the same time in two (2) separate sealed envelopes. The envelope containing the bid will be kept in a sealed box which will not be opened until after the completion of the qualification evaluation and the list of qualified bidders has been finalized and approved by the MWSS Board of Trustees. Only the bids of qualified bidders will be opened on the date of bid opening which will be announced later. The bids of the disqualified bidders will be returned unopened.

A complete set of bid documents may be purchased from the address below starting 16 January 2001 upon payment of non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) for each contract package.

CAC SECRETARIAT
MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
2nd Floor Engineering Bldg., MWSI Office
MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City

The accomplished qualification documents and bids in two (2) separate sealed envelopes must be submitted at the office of the MWSS PBAC/CSTE, Engineering./ Operations Building, MWSS, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City on or before 2:00 p.m. of 14 February 2001. Late bids will not be accepted. The official time shall be based on the bundy clock located at the office of the MWSS PBAC SECRETARIAT.

Goods and services to be supplied under these contracts must have their origin from countries defined in the "Guidelines for procurement under the ADB Loans".

(Sgd.) **JOSE F. MABANTA**
Administrator

(PDI - Jan 19 23 & 27 2001)

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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY

The PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY (PNOC) invites Suppliers and Contractors to apply for accreditation for future requirement for the following products and services:

- Office Equipment and Supplies
- IT Equipment, Peripherals and Supplies
- Hardware Tools and Supplies
- Electrical Equipment and Supplies
- Purified Drinking Water
- Printing Services
- Pest Control Services
- Shuttle Bus/Transportation Services
- Surveying and Appraisal Services
- PABX Maintenance Services
- Canteen Concessionaire

Interested parties may obtain pre-qualification documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 from the PNOC - Property and Supply Management Division (PSMD) at the G/F of the PNOC Building.

Applicants with favorable result shall be included in the PNOC's List of Accredited Suppliers and Contractors and shall be eligible to join future biddings for the Company's requirement.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. PEDRO A. AQUINO, JR.**
Senior Vice President
Legal, Admin. and Estate Management
Services

(PDI – Jan. 20 & 27, 2001)

We are a growing Multinational Company engaged in direct sales of Nutritional Supplements. We are sourcing applicants for the following position:

DISTRIBUTOR SUPPORT OFFICER

Directly reporting to Sales and Marketing Director. The candidate should have good people relation skills; excellent presentation skills with experience in training various groups of audience; high level of commitment and motivation.

A knowledge of Network Marketing is essential. Should be willing to travel nationwide even on weekends.

Please send your application letter and resumé with references and contact number to:

NUTRITION SUPPLEMENTS
P.O. BOX 1846
Makati Central Post Office
1258 Makati City
Attn: The Operations & Administrative Manager

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE-CARFU
Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management Project
Sto. Tomas Road, Baguio Dairy Farm, Baguio City.
Tele/Fax Nos. 444-79-94/444-83-29
PO Box 1158
E-mail: charm@mozcom.com

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank in various currencies toward the cost of the **Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management (CHARM) Project** and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payment under the contract for which this Invitation to Pre-Qualify and to Bid the following heavy equipment:
   a. Three (3) units Road Roller
   b. Three (3) units Dump Truck
2. Requirements for Pre-Qualification:
   a. Letter of Intent
   b. Business Permit
   c. DTI Registration
   d. Latest Income Tax Return
   e. VAT/Non-VAT Registration
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information at the Project Support Office of CHARM Project, Sto. Tomas Road, Baguio Dairy Farm, Baguio City at telephone numbers (074) 444-7994, (074) 444-8329 and SPCMAD, Room 302, Department of Agriculture, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City at telephone numbers 927-9636 to 39.
4. Submission of Pre-Qualification papers should not be later than 5:00 p.m. on **February 12, 2001** at CHARM-PSO, Baguio City or SPCMAD, Department of Agriculture, Quezon City. Bidding documents to any qualified bidders will be issued on **February 19, 2001** at CHARM Project Support Office.

   A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **February 26, 2001**, 2:00 p.m. at CHARM Project Conference Room and the opening of bids will be on **March 5, 2001**, 2:00 p.m. at CHARM Project Conference Room.
5. A bidders bond equivalent to 2.5% of the total bid price in the form of either cash or managers/cashiers check must be submitted together with the bid.
6. CHARM Project reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part of thereof, waive any defect contained therein and accept offers most advantageous to the Project.

(Sgd.) **EDMUND J. SANA**
DA Assistant Secretary
and SPBAC Chairman

(PDI – Jan. 27, 28 & 29, 2001)

INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Losing one's head

The ancient Greeks and Romans considered beheading by sword as the single most honorable form of mandatory death. The 5th-century Greek historian Xenophon, in his military history *Anabasis*, even distinguishes between the niceties of the sword over an ax, the former guaranteeing a faster cleaner cut and thus a more dignified ending. The Roman statesman and orator Cicero, sentenced to death in 43 B.C. for opposing the alliance between Mark Anthony and Octavian (later emperor Augustus), chose the sword to meet his death. The hated Roman emperor Caligula reportedly kept his chief headmen's skills honed for public execution by having them secretly practice decapitation of prisoners chosen at random from city jails.

Ooops! Contrary to popular belief, the guillotine—that "terrible swift sword" of the French Revolution—was not invented by French physician Dr. Joseph Ignace Guillotine; he merely was a central figure in persuading the French National Assembly in 1789 to pass a law requiring all capital punishment to be carried out by 'means of a machine.' The actual machine was the collaborative work of a French surgeon and a German harpsichord maker, Dr. Antoine Louis and Tobias Schmidt, each contributing his own expertise. Louis knew how a neck should split; Schimdt knew how to hone a sharp edge. First used in 1792, the machine was initially called the louisette (after Louis), but with Dr. Guillotine's more prominent position and indirect association with the apparatus, it soon became known as the guillotine. Incidentally, the guillotine remains a legal but rarely used method of execution in France.

Past Forward. This day in 1905: The Cullinan, the largest ever diamond at nearly 1.5 lb. and 3,106 carats, was found in a mine in Pretoria, South Africa. The magnificent gem, which was cut into 106 polished diamonds, is named for Sir Thomas Cullinan, chairman of the syndicate that owned the mine where it was discovered.

WORD WATCH

Alahas : from the Spanish *alhajas*, 'jewels, gems.'

PDI – January 27, 2001

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG KAGALINGANG PANLIPUNAN AT PAGPAPAUNLAD
(DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT)
BATASAN PAMBANSA COMPLEX CONSTITUTION HILLS
QUEZON CITY

January 25, 2001

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), a national government agency, is inviting duly licensed private manpower and janitorial agencies to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of labor, tools/equipment, supplies/materials and supervision for the maintenance and sanitation services of various DSWD office buildings and pr ses in Metro Manila for a contract period of one (1) year unless sooner terminated.

The determination of eligibility of prospective bidders shall be based on the submission of the following documents as specified hereunder:

A. Legal Documents
   1. DTI/SEC Registration
   2. Business Permits (Mayor's Permit/municipal license)
   3. BIR Value-Added Tax (VAT) Registration
   4. Clearances from the following:
      - Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)
      - National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC)
      - Social Security System (SSS)
      - Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR)
   5. Prospective bidder's statement that his firm is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government office/agency/corporation.

B. Technical Documents - prospective bidder's statement of previous similar contracts completed or on-going in at least the last two years.

C. Financial Documents - Audited Financial Statements, stamped "received" by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, for the last two calendar years.

Each of the above requirements shall be under oath and duly notarized, and shall form part of the duly accomplished application form for eligibility.

Those who have record of unsatisfactory performance or disqualification to participate in public bidding or in any kind of contract with Philippine Government within CY1999 to present need not apply. Cases filed with DOLE, NLRC and SSS should be settled or resolved before the bidding date and bidders must be able to submit clearances issued by concerned agencies. All incumbent service contractors may not participate.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and secure the complete set of Instructions to Bidder and Bidder's Tender Form, upon presentation of a letter of intent starting **January 29** until **February 2, 2001** from Ms. Marcris Jacinto of the Property and Supply Division, 2nd Floor, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City with telephone nos. (632) 9318161, (632)9318101 to 07 local 125, and fax no. (632) 9517116.

Your quotation complete with all the requirements must be received or submitted not later than **February 15, 2001, 9:00 AM.** to Ms. Marcris Jacinto at the above-stated address. Thereafter, eligibility and bid envelopes will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representative(s) who choose to attend. Late quotations will not be accepted. A pre-bid conference will be held on **February 6, 2001, 2:00 PM** at the Administrative Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DSWD, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City.

DSWD hereby reserves the right to reject any or all applications for eligibility and to bid, to waive any formality therein and/or accept the bid as maybe considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **TEODULO R. ROMO, JR., MNSA**
Director, Administrative Service

(PDI – Jan. 27 & 28, 2001)

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HIS EMINENCE, JAIME L. CARDINAL SIN
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The auxiliary bishops and clergy of Manila; bereaved brothers and sisters and in-laws **Leogarda & Conrado Pensuan, Amparo & Felipe Tejada, Sofronia & Jose Analia, Atty. Venancio & Milagros Ponce, Araceli & Eustaquio Cayman, Herminia & Federico Marcelino, Nicolas & Victoria Espeleta, Dra. Escolastica & Jose Pandato**, and **Victor & Escolastica Espeleta**; nephews, nieces, relatives and friends

deeply mourn the demise of

REV. FR. ANTOLIN GUEVARRA ESPELETA

who died on January 26, 2001 at the age of 87.

His remains now lie in state at Lourdes Chapel, Lakeview Homes, Putatan, Muntinlupa City.

Funeral Mass will be held on Wednesday, January 31, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. at the Inang Mapag-Ampon Parish, Poblacion, Muntinlupa City. Interment follows at the Everest Memorial Park, Susana Heights, Muntinlupa City.

The faithful are requested to pray for the repose of his soul.

To everything there is a season, And a time to every purpose
Under the heaven: A time to be born, And a time to die: A time to plant, and time to pluck up
That which is planted ....

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

GONZALO T. SANTOS, JR.

January 25, 1936 -- January 24, 2001

UP LAW '57 and YALE LAW '59; NEHS '52
Securities and Exchange Commissioner, 1981-1992
Chief Executive Trustee, Asset Privatization Trust, 1994-1998
Lecturer, UP College of Law, UP Law Center,
FEU, UM, UST Law Schools, and NDCP

His bereaved wife, **Virginia**; children: **Gonzalo Allan III, Ma. Victoria Cristina,** and **Frederick Maximillian**; in-laws: **Francis Abraham** and **Edlyn**; **brother Emmanuel Noli** and sister-in-law **Carmelita Soriente**; sister **Pearl**; and grandchildren: **Daniella, Miguel, Francesca, Benjamina Patricia** and **Regina Gabrielle**; nephew **Emmanuel Candido II**, in-law **Desiree**, and grandnice **Martine Veronique**; and nieces **Primavera** and in-law **Tim Donohue**; **Katrina**, in-law **Henry** and grandnephew **Johann Rafael**; **Leanina** and **Gretzen**; paternal aunt, **Lucila**; maternal aunt, **Martha Ramos-Tiu** and first cousins, **Macario, Leony** and **Lawrence** and spouses; **Angelina**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Capilla del Senor, Santuario de San Antonio Church, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City January 25 to 26, 2001.

After the Mass at 7:00 a.m. on January 27 (Saturday), 2001, the remains will be brought to the K of C hall beside the Dambana ng Ina ng Laging Saklolo at Mabini Extension in Cabanatuan City for the 10 a.m. Mass after which interment shall follow at the family mausoleum.

Judge IRINEO "Iring" V. MENDOZA

Executive RTC Judge and World War II Veteran

Peacefully joined his Creator on January 25, 2001 at the age of 73.

He is survived by his wife **Maria Avecilla Mendoza** and his bereaved children and their spouses **Irineo Jr.** and **Mary Jane**, **Ross** and **Racel**, **Elmer** and **Maricar**, **Norman** and **Lourdes**, **Eric**, **Homer** and **Marvin**; grandchildren **Irma**, **Janina**, **Aileen**, **John Boy**, **Erwin**, **Maxie** and **Isabella**; his sisters **Magdalena**, **Catalina** and **Vicenta**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in San Juan, Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

Interment will be on Saturday, February 3, 2001 at Memorial Park, Sto. Tomas after 1:00 p.m. Mass at San Juan, Sto. Tomas Church.

ATTY. ANTONIO "STEVE" B. LLANES

of Vigan, Ilocos Sur

Peacefully joined his Creator on January 25, 2001 at the age of 69.

His bereaved wife **Aida** (deceased); children **Zeny**, **Jovy** and **Ria**, **Ichu** and **Rely**, **Meanne**, **Bong** (deceased) and **Lou**, and **Eris**; grandchildren **Jed**, **Jia**, **Steffi** and **Lance**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Capilla E & F, Arlington East The Garden Chapels, C. Raymundo Avenue, Pasig City.

Interment will be at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City on Sunday, January 28, 2001 after the 3:00 p.m. Mass at Arlington East, Capilla E & F, C. Raymundo Avenue, Pasig City.

CAROLINA GANZON GUYTINGCO

Died in the Grace of our Lord on January 23, 2001.

She is survived by her bereaved husband **CINIONG**; children **EPHRAIM, EMY, MANNY, EDGAR** and **LINDA**; her sister **GINIA**; grandchildren **ANJELICA, ANDREW, ALEXANDRA, ANCHET, LIANNE, PAOLO, KRISTINA, KATRINA** and **JAMES**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, January 30, 2001 after the 1:00 p.m. necrological Mass at La Loma Cemetery.

Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again.

2 Cor. 4:14

SISTER LETICIA ACURANTES, ICM

July 27, 1937 – January 25, 2001

Her remains lie in state at the Queen of Peace Convent Chapel at 61 Banawe Street, Quezon City.

The Sisters of the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (ICM) and her bereaved family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on Saturday, January 27, 2001, at the La Loma Catholic Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Queen of Peace Convent Chapel.

In loving Memory of Our Dearest Dad

Dean Emeritus Elpidio Varquez Biliran, Sr.

Who in Grace joined our Father in heaven on January 23, 2001.

His wife **Angelita** (†); his children **Malet, Menchie, Fr. Elpidio Jr., Fr. Joseph, Fr. Van, Brigitte Constance, Atty. GG, Seraphim, Cookie, Barjo,** and **Ging**; his grandchildren **Zajel III Joshua, Ezra, Felian, Justin, Kobi, Toni-Joy, Anna Michelle, Angela-Emille, Gabrielle, Louelle** (†), **Mikko,** and **Matthew**; his sister, and in-laws **Librada, Sis. Teofana SSPS, Serapio Dompor Jr., Boggs, Judge Jung, Anthony Eugenio, Florence, Glendell,** and **Raymund Joseph.**

Thanks God for lending to us the gift of life in Dear Dad.

His body lies in state at their Fairview residence.

Cremation will be at Eternal Garden Crematorium, Caloocan on January 28, 2001 at 12:00 noon.

"You will forever be in our hearts NANAY"

ROSA E. GALVEZ

of Tugatog, Malabon, Metro Manila

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on January 23, 2001 at the age of 71.

Her loving husband **Venancio**; children **Ding** and **Miriam**, **Lito** and **Lanie**, **Normita**, **Efren** and **Susan**, **Cezar** and **Christine**, **Romy** and **Ellen**, **Bobby** and **Vivian**; her sister **Celing**; grandchildren **Jenny, Elaine, Ruth, Jay, Anjo, Arvin, Eana, Ian, Esbeth, Issa, Mm, Raymund, Pauline, Paola, Kevin, Diwa, Guia** and **Sindi**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

She will be laid to rest on Saturday, January 27, 2001, 10:00 AM at Eternal Gardens, Caloocan City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES
Call us at 897-2535

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

MARIA CUA YIA

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on January 21, 2001

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

Our Dearly Beloved

NIEVES AMBOY VDA. DE ANACTA

of Zamora Street, Pasay City and Borongan, Eastern Samar

peacefully joined our Lord on January 25, 2001 at the age of 97.

Her children **Virgilia** (†) and **Perfecto**, **Manuel** (†) and **Francisca**, **Aurora** and **Nick**, **Socorro**, **Mercedes**, **Jorge** (†) and **Luz**, **Juan Jr.** and **Myrna**, **Carlos** and **Zeny**; together with grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Her remains lie in peace at Veronica Memorial Chapels, Arnaiz Avenue, Pasay City.

Interment schedule to be announced later.

Our Dearly Beloved

ANTONIO V. BUTIONG

former Councilor of Lian, Batangas

peacefully joined our Lord on January 25, 2001 at the age of 69.

His loving wife **Luz**; children **Karlo** and **Helen** (†), **Ronald** and **Melissa**; grandchildren **Karlene**, **Matt**, **Andrea** and **Rafael**; together with relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Butiong residence, 1607 Dagonoy (F. Torres) Street, San Andres, Sta. Ana, Manila.

Interment will be on Sunday, January 28, 2001 at the South Cemetery, Manila.

RODOLFO "BABE" OCAMPO DESIDERIO

October 17, 1931 - January 25, 2001

President -	**JOSE E. DESIDERIO AND COMPANY, INC.** **COUNTRY BANKERS INSURANCE CORPORATION** **COUNTRY BANKERS LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION**
Chairman of the Board -	**RURAL BANK OF CALOOCAN, INC.** **LA FUERZA LENDING CORPORATION**

Died in the Grace of our Lord on January 25, 2001

His bereaved family:

Wife	**GLORIA G. DESIDERIO**
Daughter	**GERALDINE DESIDERIO-GARCIA**
Son-in-law	**IAN R. GARCIA**
Grandchildren	**IAN MIGUEL** **ISABEL ANGELA** **IÑIGO LUIS**
Siblings	**JOSE II** (†) and **CARIDAD S. DESIDERIO** **JULIANA CARMEN DESIDERIO-VILLAREAL**
Surrogate Sister	**MARITESS DESIDERIO**
Brother-in-law	**ERNESTO M. VILLAREAL**
Nieces and Nephews	**ERNESTINE CARMEN JO** and **MARCELO FERNANDO, JR.** **ERNESTO RODOLFO, JR.** **ERNEST JULIUS JOSE** and **CARINA** **ERNESTITO IV JOSE** **AGNES** and **JOEL MUÑOZ**
Grandnephews	**MARCELO III JOAQUIN** **RAFAEL LUIS** **NICHOLAS MATTHEW**
Grandniece	**INES MARIA**

His Relatives, Friends and Employees request the pious readers
to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Jose,
Duke Street, Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, January 30, 2001 at the
Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the 8:00 AM Mass
at Santuario de San Jose.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the construction of
The Shrine of the Holy Trinity Parish, Don Jose Heights,
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City
will be greatly appreciated.

People, Events & Products

REZ GOPEZ-SINDAC, Editor

Maybank Premier Account now accessible via inter-country ATM link

MAYBANK Philippines recently launched the Maybank Premier Account, offering checking account convenience that earns as high as 8 percent, which is among the highest deposit interest rates in the market today. With its high interest rate, account holders are assured that the value of their funds is maximized.

The Maybank Premier Account has an auto transfer facility automatically transferring funds from the savings to the checking account whenever a check is issued. With this, depositors do not have to maintain any balance on the checking account and can issue checks so long as there are sufficient funds on the savings account. Ultimately, depositors will now have the convenience of managing only one account and will no longer experience the complexities of dealing with several accounts. Depositors can also have unlimited withdrawals on their account unlike other bank's similar products in this class.

The Maybank Premier Account also offers security for its account holders with the free accident insurance coverage amounting to as high as P500,000 for individual depositors. To date, no other equivalent product in the market offers this unique and important feature. The Maybank Premier Account requires an opening and maintaining balance of only P10,000; comes with a free passbook and the regular monthly statement for easy monitoring of transactions. It also comes with a free ATM card, allowing access to the account through over 3,000 MegaLink ATMs nationwide anytime, anywhere.

The Maybank Premier Account which can be availed both by individuals and businesses is just one of the value-laden and innovative products of Maybank Philippines. With more than 50 branches nationwide, Maybank has the most extensive reach among the foreign commercial banks in the country. Maybank Philippines is a member of the Maybank Group, the largest bank in Malaysia and is ranked among the top 20 banks in Asia and among the top 150 in the world. It is backed by over US$34 billion in assets and a network among the major financial cities in the world.

Just recently, Maybank also introduced the Inter-Country ATM Link connecting Maybank ATMs in Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and the Philippines. This will enable Maybank Premier Account depositors based in the Philippines to transact their accounts even if they are in the other three countries. These banking innovations earned Maybank the recognition of being the Best Domestic Bank in Malaysia at the Euromoney Awards 2000 and was also chosen as the Bank of the Year in Malaysia by the prestigious London-based magazine The Banker.

LOWEST CELLULAR CALL RATE
TAWAG CENTER

SMART INAUGURATES 1ST SATELLITE-BASED PCO

Cellular leader Smart Communications Inc. inaugurated recently its satellite-based Public Calling Office (PCO) in San Miguel, Catanduanes. Left photo shows Aling Soling in whose sari-sari store, the Smart PCO was installed, making the first call out of San Miguel to her daughter in Chicago. The first to be installed in the country, Smart partnered with sister company Asian Cellular Satellite (AceS) to provide telecommunications facility in the area. Before Smart's PCO, residents of San Miguel travel to Virac to make a phone call. The inauguration was attended by Smart, AceS, PLDT executives, local government and NTC officials (from left) Catanduanes Governor Hector Sanchez, Joseph Santiago of the National Telecommunications Commission, Smart president and CEO Napoleon L. Nazareno, and Catanduanes Rep. Leandro Verceles Jr.

BABY CONGRESS SPEAKER

Dr. Baby Katty Go-Estrada, a dermatologist at Manila Doctor's Hospital (center), lectured on "Skin Changes in Pregnancies and the Newborn" at the First National Baby Congress held Sept. 29, 2000 at Dusit Hotel Nikko. Go-Estrada is shown receiving a Certificate of Appreciation and Vandol gift packs from Marikit C. Figueras, events director (left) and Kathy A. Vergara, division manager of Schering Plough, maker of Vandol cream and ointment.

Ateneo parents hosts seminar on middle adulthood

THE ATENEO Schools Parents' Council (Aspac) is sponsoring a seminar on "Middle Adulthood: A Celebration" to be held today from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon at the Blue Room, Café Upstairs, 2/F Gonzaga Hall, Ateneo de Manila University campus on Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Diliman, Quezon City. This was announced by Aspac president Maiette M. Zee and seminar chair Tony W. Castro.

Guest speakers Dr. Tita Agravante-Go and Dr. Ernesto G. Moreno will discuss the physical and psycho-social theories about midlife, and how the participant can acquire the skills and competencies to enhance his ability to enrich this phase in his life. Registration starts at 8 a.m. Fee of P100/person covers food, materials and facilities. Participation is limited to 130 persons or 60 couples. For details, call the Aspac office at 426-5691 or 426-6001 loc. 5190.

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Manila

COMMITTEE ON BIDS

INVITATION TO BID

The Supreme Court invites authorized Distributors/Dealers of branded Personal Computers to pre-qualify and participate in the lot bidding for the following:

A. 1,500 Units Branded Personal Computers
B. 1,500 Units Dot Matrix Printers
C. 1,500 Units Automatic Voltage Regulator (AVR)
D. 1,500 Microsoft Word 2000 Licenses

for distribution and delivery to:

1. Supreme Court	343
2. Regional Trial Courts (RTC)	881
3. Metropolitan Trial Courts (MeTC)	82
4. Municipal Trial Courts (MTC)	86
5. Municipal Circuit Trial Courts (MCTC)	58
6. Municipal Trial Court in Cities (MTCC)	48
7. Sharia Circuit Court (SHCC)	1
8. Office of the Jurisconsult	1
	1,500

Prospective bidders may secure pre-qualification requirements and bid documents including the lists of recipient Courts and their locations from the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Office of Administrative Services, Supreme Court. Pre-qualification requirements must be submitted in a sealed envelope to the Committee on Bids at the **Second Floor, Centennial Building of the Supreme Court** at exactly **10:00 AM, February 14, 2001**, at which date and time the pre-qualification proceedings shall be held in the presence of the participating bidders or their duly authorized representatives.

A pre-bid conference of pre-qualified bidders will be held on **February 21, 2001 at 10:00 AM, Second Floor, Centennial Building of the Supreme Court.** Only bids of pre-qualified bidders who participated in the pre-bid conference will be accepted and opened at the time of the bidding that will be held at exactly **9:00 AM on February 28, 2001, Second Floor Centennial Building of the Supreme Court** in the presence of the COA Auditor or his representative and the participating bidders or their duly authorized representatives.

The Supreme Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein, or accept any bids/or offer/s which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

January 25, 2001.

(Sgd.) **JOSE P. PEREZ**
Chairperson
Committee on Bids

(PDI – Jan. 27, 2001)

Jollibee housing program benefits poor families

FAMILIES coming from the lowest 30 percent of the Philippine population recently received low-cost housing units courtesy of Jollibee Foods Corporation's Pabahay, Pambuhay program, a corporate undertaking in support of Habitat for Humanity Philippines' (HFHP) cause to eliminate poverty housing in the country.

Jollibee turned over the houses during ceremonies held at the Rotaryville Christian (RVC) Habitat in Talon 1, Las Piñas. The turnover rites took place after the Jollibee Christmas Build, Pabahay, Pambuhay's December construction activities.

The Christmas Build was attended by top-ranking Jollibee officials including president and CEO Tony Tancaktiong, VP for corporate affairs Claro Certeza and corporate affairs manager Rocky Dimaculangan. Special guests included actor and Jollibee franchisee/endorser Aga Muhlach, Cynthia Villar, wife of Rep. Manny Villar, HFHP president and CEO Erly De Guzman and Chikiting Patrol host Flexi Sarte.

Between speeches and keynote messages by the guests, children of the home partners delivered a song and dance number, followed by separate performances by the Jollibee mascot and Flexi Sarte.

House recipient and RVC Homeowners Association president Evelinda Bables also delivered a message on behalf of the other Jollibee-HFHP home partners.

Towards the end of the day, Jollibee announced that the company will continue to support HFHP by building more houses at selected HFHP build sites all over Metro Manila.

An international housing organization, HFHP has already helped build 2,500 houses all over the country. Aside from Metro Manila, HFHP also has affiliates in Cagayan Valley, Negros Oriental and Occidental, Central Plains of Luzon, Midsayap and General Santos City.

RAFFLE DRAW WINNERS

KFC's VP for marketing Cha-Cha Juinio (left) draws the winning entry to the Pokemon Bucket Meal promo launched in December last year. Twenty-three winners were drawn to win Motorolla cellphone units. Validating the raffle tickets DTI representative Zenaida Biglang-Awa (right).

Jesu-Mariea School launches peace campaign in Parañaque

A SIGNATURE peace campaign launched by a progressive school in Better Living Parañaque. Called the "Peace...I Like" movement, the campaign was originally launched by Jesu-Mariea students to commemorate the school's 30th anniversary last December.

Jesu-Mariea owner-director Lily Canlas said the campaign grows out of the school's curriculum which centers on peace education and on a recent call for international peace and non-violence by UNESCO.

Jesu-Mariea's signature campaign for peace was launched in October this year and instantly won support among residents, non-government organizations, and a long-term commitment from Jollibee Parañaque which gave its nod to the signature drive when it allowed Jesu-Mariea to use its premises as a launching pad.

Jesu-Mariea students are also planning a weeklong round of school activities to call attention to the drive. This will include a competition in peace event, storytelling, peace camp, the opening of a peace museum, a "tiange," essay writing contest and a carolfest.

CCBPI PARTNERS WITH PHILIPPINE VENDING CORP.

CCBPI appoints PVC, the country's largest full-line vending partner, to be the exclusive service operator of Coke vending machines in the CALABARZON area during a contract signing recently held at the Manila Polo Club. Signing the agreement are (from left) Herwin See, PVC chief operating officer; Patrick Pasengco, PVC president and chief executive officer; Edilberto So, CCBPI vice president and Mega-Manila operations director; and Bernard Marquez, CCBPI group manager of Cold Drink Development and Equipment Services.

Clips

Congress of endoscopic surgery in Manila

THE PHILIPPINE Association of Endoscopic Surgeons will host the 5th Asia Pacific Congress of Endoscopic Surgery in cooperation with the Endoscopic and Laparoscopic Surgeons of Asia on Feb. 9-11, 2001 at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel. Participants will be surgeons of the different surgical subspecialties from the Asia Pacific region, and a number of delegates from the rest of the world. For inquiries, e-mail Annette Tolentino at pcs@pcs.org.ph.

Tribute to YWCA pillars

THE YOUNG Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Manila's 75th anniversary celebration will start on Jan. 31, 2001 by giving a tribute to the YWCA of Manila Pillars. The occasion pays homage to the founders, past, presidents and past executive directors who have greatly contributed to the realization of the vision, mission and goals of the movement. The YWCA of Manila will appreciate very much if the families of the founders who were not contacted would get in touch with the association at 523-6513, 525-6065 or 523-5790.

Dermatology course

THE JOSE R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center Department of Dermatology will hold its 6th post graduate course titled "Advances in Dermatology" on Jan. 25 and 26, 2001 at the Occupational Safety and Health Center, North Avenue corner Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Dr. Hideoki Ogawa, chair of the dermatology department of Juntendo University Hospital in Tokyo, Japan has been invited to discuss Advances in the Management of Recalcitrant Dermatoses, Advances in Mycology, Advances in Hair Disorders and Advances in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Bullous Diseases. Other guest speakers are Dr. Ma. Victoria C. Dizon, Dr. Manoilto Chua, Dr. Raymond Rosales and Dr. Perry Tan. For registration and inquiries, contact Drs. Rina de Jesus-del Moral, Suzette Castañeda and Joyce Nario-Atacador at 711-6703 or 711-9491 local 334 or 336.

DERMATOLOGY RESEARCH FORUM

The Section of Dermatology, Department of Internal Medicine, University of the Philippines Manila-Philippine General Hospital conducted its 1st Dermatology Research Forum recently. The event was held in cooperation with the Splash Group of Companies (SGC) through its research arm, Splash Research Institute. The institute was represented by Gina de la Vega-Cruz (back row, center), SGC corporate communications manager. An award totaling P50,000 was handed by Dr. Clarita Maano (second from right, front row) chief of the Section of Dermatology to the best researchers: (from left, front row) first place winners – Drs. MA. Perla Tecson-Lansang (Case Report), Malaya Pimentel-Santos (Prospective Study) and Cindy Jao (Retrospective Study). Other winners are (from left, back row) Drs. Grace Gicaro, Rosanna Leveriza, Chittina de Ocampo and Vincent Ong.

FILIPINO TECHNICIANS BAG HONDA AWARDS

Arnold Bergola (Honda Cars Quezon City) and Rolando Guibao (Honda Cars Davao) bagged the championship and 1st runner-up trophy, respectively, at the recently concluded Asia Oceania Technician Contest held at Honda Cards Makati last November. The duo bested more than 40 technicians representing Honda subsidiaries and affiliates in the Asia Oceania region. The event was hosted for the firsts time by Honda Cars Philippines, Inc. Present at the awarding ceremony are (from left) Mr. Iizuka, Honda Motor Co. Ltd. manager; Takashi Tsuchiya, Honda Motor Co. Ltd. general manager; Hu Chung Hsin, 3rd place winner, Hong Kong; Arnold Bergola, champion, Philippines; Mr. Ohira, Honda Motor Co. Ltd. manager; Rolando Guibao, 2nd place, Philippines; Kenji Otaka, Honda Cars Phils. Inc. president and general manager; Masaru Shiga, AVP for service, HCPI; Danny Pedro, AVP for service, HCPI and Mr. Murase, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. manager.

Wanted: Doctors who care

BY RYAN FONTANILLA

"WE are above ordinary mortals," our teacher in medical humanities clenched his fists as he pronounced this grain of truth that greeted my ears during the early days as a medical school freshman.

What is this avatar that our teacher referred to as "physicianship"? A vehicle for social mobility? A funnel draining to the coffers? A "demigodhead" who speaks the language of natural law?

Reasons

There are different reasons why the country's youth are drawn into this profession.

From a nationalist point of view, all these reasons merge into an ultimate one of colonial mentality. Our once colonial masters and society had somewhat successfully impressed the delectability of practicing medicine and law with their lure of social status, among other attractions.

On the other hand, some see themselves as agents of science, pushing the limits of discovery concerning human health and its mechanisms.

There are, however, a few who view their reasons as another kind of advancement—the advancement of humanity where a social dimension is the driving force.

Lastly, a spiritual realm would be their reason giving up what they perceived to be vanities for the sake of self-evolution.

For whatever reason that drove some either into madness or devotion into this practice, we can all consolidate all of these as "cause."

What is then the effect?

The bulk of physicians in this country practice in urban centers. Many decided to bail out and forsake the uncertainty of our country's destiny. Mortality and morbidity of infectious diseases are virtually monopolized by the impoverished in the countryside and depressed urban centers. Every day a new technique, a new drug, a new mechanism is being discovered while a simple antibiotic regimen for pneumonia is elusive to a number of individuals who haven't seen a doctor since they were born. These are some of the effects.

Stark difference

Years back, I watched black and white movies of the '50s on television. The setting would be suburbanite and every time somebody gets sick, I observed that a doctor was always saying all those melodramatic classical *Tagalog*, no medical terms coming out of his mouth. The doctor would always allay the fears or pronouncement of impending death to the relatives of the ailing person. What really caught my attention was that the doctor was there and the whole party was in the ailing person's residence. I gathered that it was the practice then—that doctors came to the patients.

This is so unlike the stark difference of what we have today: Patients waiting in line outside the doctor's offices, laymen having to climb up to some level just to comprehend medical jargon.

So what exactly made the reversal of the phenomenon that stopped doctors from going to their patients, saving them the trouble of lining up, picking a number, and weaving through traffic just to be diagnosed or to know what medicines to take?

I am pretty sure there are a gamut of reasons for this. The battery of impersonal diagnostic tests aggravates the patient's intimidation. I know these tests are necessary to determine what disease is bothering a patient, but where's the human touch, the caring feeling of security under the hands of a doctor?

Unappealing

Most of my classmates hear of "doctors to the barrios" and "foot doctors," which to them seem unappealing. They sometimes unjustly equate these terms with *albolaryos* and quack doctors. Their mindset is that this breed of doctors belongs to a bygone era. They reason out that there is no money there, believing that the practice of medicine in the modern age is confined to the four walls of the hospital.

We hear time and time again that doctors cure the patients and not the disease. Medicines are not the only things involved here. The discreet care and concern of a doctor is much more important than impersonal therapies and prescriptions.

No drug regimen can match the warm eyes of the doctor looking at you, holding your shoulder, telling you in his modulated voice, "Do not worry, I'll do everything I can to make you better."

And even if the disease takes its toll on you, in your soul you can say that you are cured.

Ages ago, knowing how to cure people with the use of drugs and or any form of healing based on knowledge of human anatomy was considered by the established religions as belonging to the occult and the work of entities in the underworld. But the practice persisted and became catalysts for change because for one, it is based on truth, the natural law that is an expression of the divine. It challenged organized and popular doctrines, spreading the gospel of healing.

Agents of change

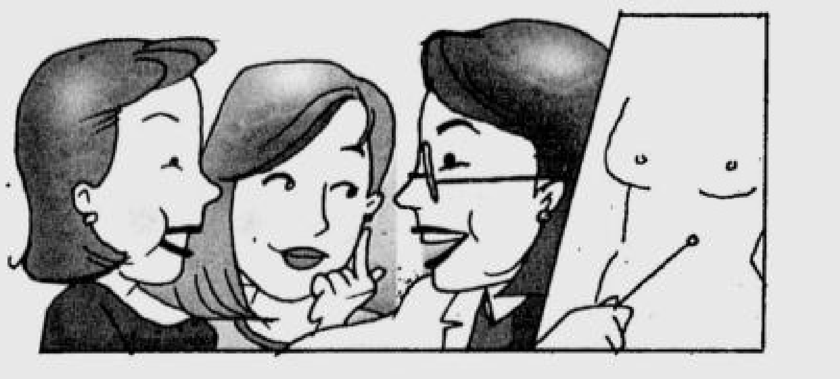
Sad to say, the practice has evolved into another institution with stern doctrines, losing the rebellious nature that it was founded on. It seems that it doesn't want to change anymore and assumed the role of a system, which it persistently fought before.

With this thought the essence of "physicianship" must not be forgotten. It is tempting to propose that foot doctors must be mobilized to meet the health needs of the country, or maybe bring medical missions to remote areas. But these will only be temporary solutions to the problems. These will only teach people to have unnecessary dependence to specialized medical care, which are impersonal and expensive.

If results are to be expected, doctors as agents of change must go beyond their training in medical schools. They can assume the role of teachers and organizers to the communities needing medical assistance. They can train people to do simple procedures like taking blood pressure taking and teach first aid to volunteer members in a community. And in conditions that certain skills are beyond their spheres of experience, they can coordinate with nongovernment organizations that know more about how to deal with people.

In the end, they will be helping people help themselves so that when the time comes that the doctors' help is no longer needed, their caring arms will still be felt.

Are doctors a superior subgroup of society? I agree with that statement only so far as learning more about health and the human body. The belief of superiority does not hold any meaning. I believe this is the reason that the acronym "M.D." is placed after, rather than before, the doctor's name—to emphasize that they too are like any other person. And this unique learning that we have does not have an end to itself. It must assume a form that goes beyond the boundaries of the modern stereotypes. I am referring to service, of selfless service unmindful of whatever human limitations and frailty that this lifetime has in store for us. And only on this note can I humbly say that we are above mortal men.



BREAST SELF-EXAM

Keeping in touch with your health

BREAST Self-Examination (BSE) is a procedure performed by an individual to physically and visually examine herself for any changes in the breasts and underarm areas of the body. The purpose of the BSE is for you to learn the topography of your breasts. All women over the age of 20 should practice monthly breast self-examination—knowing how your breasts normally feel will allow you to notice changes in the future.

Why should you do BSE?

- The Philippines has the highest incidence of breast cancer in Asia. Each year in this country, some 10,000 cases of breast cancer are diagnosed. Each year, some 3,000 Filipinas die of breast cancer.
- Any woman can get breast cancer.
- The BSE is simple to do and takes just 10 minutes a month. It can help you notice changes in your breasts.
- Ninety percent of breast cancer, when detected early, is curable.

On the average, a lump found (if ever) by regular and thorough BSE is the size of a button. When this potentially life-saving habit is practiced only occasionally, the average size of the lump found increases to about that of a one-peso coin. Bear in mind, the size of the lump—if cancerous—is an indication of how far the cancer has spread.

When should you do BSE?

- Breast self-examination should be done once each month. If you menstruate, the best time is 10 days after the onset of your period, when your breasts are least likely to be tender or swollen. If your periods are irregular or have stopped, choose a day such as the first day of the month to practice Breast Self-Examination. That way, you will remember to do it every month.
- Women who are pregnant or breastfeeding, and women who have silicone implants, should continue to examine their breasts once a month. Breastfeeding mothers should conduct the breast self-examination after all milk has been expressed.
- If you no longer menstruate, pick the same day of every month. It will be easy to remember.
- If you take hormones, check with your doctor about the best time for your BSE.

Your goal is to learn the feel of your breasts, its smoothness or lumpiness. Month after month you want to see if there is any change in their appearance or in their feel, learning in the process what is normal for you.

Changes to be aware of are development of a lump, discharge other than breast milk, swelling of the breast, skin irritation or dimpling, and nipple abnormalities (i.e., pain, redness, scaliness, turning inward). Most (80 percent) lumps are not cancer. But all lumps and other changes in the breast should be checked out by a doctor.

By practicing careful and complete breast self-examination and by discussing any breast irregularities with your doctor, you can substantially increase your chances of early detection and early treatment of any problem.

Women who perform BSE regularly are keeping in touch with their breast health. Keep in touch for the rest of your life.

Prolonging quality of life of Alzheimer's patients

RONALD Reagan, former president of the United States, boasts to his former aide Michael Deaver that he scored nine out of the nine baskets on his own hoop mounted in the garage of the house he shares with his wife Nancy.

Reagan remains physically active despite his affliction with Alzheimer's Disease (AD). He may not remember his former aide's name let alone recognize him. His wife, Nancy, is the only person he knows. But he can take regular walks and could still pose for photographs.

The extension of the quality of life of Alzheimer's patients like him is due to the interventions and breakthrough medicinal treatment now available to them.

There is still no known cure for Alzheimer's Disease but cholinesterase inhibitors, such as donepezil, have proven to be effective in prolonging the quality of life of AD sufferers and easing the burden of the caregivers attending to them.

Remembering relationships

Alzheimer's Disease is the most common form of dementia. Dementia is the loss of intellectual functioning (thinking, remembering and reasoning) so severe that it interferes with the person's ability to function, which eventually results in death.

These new agents of intervention that help prolong the quality of life of AD sufferers are called cholinesterase inhibitors. These inhibitors, one of which is donepezil, have been known to reduce or temporarily stabilize cognitive impairment with AD patients. They abate the regression of the AD patient, slowing down the deterioration of the patient's mental capacity such as memory and language disturbance.

The term "*ulyanin*" is used for the elderly who display these manifestations. Early detection of the disease may result in early intervention with these agents to help prolong the quality of the patient's life and their relationships.

Caring for caregivers

The cholinesterase inhibitors have also been shown to reduce behavioral disturbances among AD patients.

Alzheimer's Disease patients who are not being treated frequently display disturbing behavior such as destroying property, rudeness and embarrassing antics, threatening to hurt others, verbal abuse and irritability. Caregivers become the easy targets for these acts.

Being a caregiver for an AD patient may be very stressful. In some cases, some patients have to be institutionalized to have continuous care due to the fact that their caregivers have conceded the challenge.

In a paper published in the American Journal of Geriatric Psychology, Dr. Jeffrey Cummings presented that these disruptive actions are diminished by as much as 40 percent among AD patients treated with donepezil.

This reduction in disturbing behavior may result in a less stressful environment for the caregiver.

Decreasing damages

In the United States alone, the health costs for Alzheimer's Disease amount to $100 billion a year in lost productivity, medical care, personal caregiving, making it the third most costly illness after heart disease and cancer.

For AD patients receiving homecare, the average out-of-pocket cost to family caregivers (excluding lost wages) is $12,500 or P612,500 annually.

In a Filipino extended family, any member may be appointed as caregiver to an afflicted elder member. However, the caregiver is mandated to stay home and be a companion to the AD patient. This results in the loss of income for the caregiver and financial dependence to the household.

Thus, the burden of caring not only affects the household and the caregiver emotionally but also financially.

For Alzheimer's patients in nursing homes in the United States, the average annual cost is $42,000 per person or P2.05 million.

The patient may defer the need for early nursing home placement when the intervention is done early. It may also lessen the period of institutional residence and reduce the expense of the disorder.

Information and education are the only ways to create awareness among the public and get them to have their loved ones checked by a qualified medical practitioner.

For Alzheimer's Disease, early detection and intervention are the only solutions at the moment to minimize the burden of tending to the afflicted and, the emotional and economic toll on their families.

Where does gravity come from?

BY QUEENA N. LEE-CHUA

GRAVITY is so ubiquitous that we generally take it for granted, and never even wonder about it. But one reader, who prefers to remain anonymous, has some questions to ask concerning this phenomenon.

I refer to your article on Gravity Waves (July 29, 2000) and would like to follow through on it. The reason I wrote this letter is that as far as I can remember, I always had thoughts and questions about gravity, but I never really got into any serious scientific forum about it until I read your article. My questions are basically simple:

What is gravity, and where does it come from?

I have always wondered about the answers to these questions because of my childhood fascination with levitation vehicles. I am aware of magnetic levitation vehicles (for rapid rail transit), but my interest lies not so much in lift due to magnetic forces, but rather due to or in relation to some gravitational or antigravitational forces. In my quest for answers, I realized that before anything else, I had to understand first what was the nature and source of gravity. Somehow it seemed rational (though not necessarily logical) to think that if there was a pull-down gravitational force, then perhaps there could also be a push-up antigravitational force. So I thought of the basic questions above.

As a lay person without appropriate scientific background, I understand gravity as simply a force that pulls down material things to what is apparently its core. By material things, I mean solid, liquid and gas. Perhaps my classification is not accurate, but I believe you understand more or less what I mean. By core, I refer to the planets and other solid objects constantly traveling through space. Earth is one, the moon is another. Based on common knowledge, gravity appears to be stronger in earth and weaker in the moon.

This apparent difference in the strength of gravitational forces between the earth and moon seems to hold some keys to a better understanding of the abstract concept of gravity. Does the size of the space object matter? What about the speed by which the space object rotates, does it matter? What if the space object (i.e., earth or moon) stops turning or traveling through space, will the gravitational force be lost?

I hope you will shed some light on my questions, even though they seem to be very basic and simplistic.

Attracting, not repelling

I don't think your questions are simplistic, and in fact, I had to do some research to clarify what I am going to say, even if I thought I already knew quite a bit about gravity. Simply put, gravity (or gravitation) is a force that attracts all objects in the universe. Note that word "attracts"—it does not repel anything, so it does not really make sense to think of an antigravity force. Also, the direction of gravity is not necessarily "down"—though that is the most familiar scenario for us. Think of the planets orbiting the sun, or your example of the moon orbiting the earth—gravity keeps them there, and the direction would be "toward" the object with the greater mass.

Yes, the size of the object does matter. Expressed mathematically, Newton in 1666 stated that there is an attractive force F, given by $F=Gm_1m_2/r^2$, between two particles having masses m_1 and m_2 and separation distance r. G is the constant of proportionality, which Newton at that time could not find, but which Henry Cavendish more than a century later determined to be 6.67×10^{-8} cubic cm/g-sec^2.

A cursory glance at the equation reveals that the gravitational force between two objects is directly proportional (related directly) to the size of their masses. This means that the larger either mass is, the larger the force is between the two objects. (Note that we are talking of mass and not weight because the weight of an object on earth is actually the strength of the earth's gravity on that object.)

Also, the gravitational force is inversely (oppositely) proportional to the distance between the centers of gravity if the two objects squared (multiplied by itself). For instance, if the distance between the two objects doubles, the force between them becomes a fourth of its original strength. Simply put, the greater the distance between two objects the lesser the force of gravity, and vice versa. Commonsensical, isn't it?

'Big Bang'

Where did gravity come from? To answer this, we have to start from the very beginning of the universe—at the moment of the Big Bang, where all four fundamental forces (gravity, electromagnetism, strong, weak) were still united. A very, very short time after the Big Bang (measured in units smaller than milliseconds), gravity separated from the unified force, and came to its own. The other forces separated from each other shortly after.

Gravity is also postulated to be a possible cause of the reverse situation—the so-called Big Crunch, where everything in the universe comes back together and collapses into itself. Gravitational collapse is probably the culprit behind black holes, which many scientists claim exist in several astronomical systems.

As for gravity and speed, it would be more correct to say that gravity and acceleration are related, and in fact are two sides of the same coin. According to Galileo, gravity imparts a definite acceleration (rather than velocity, which is speed with direction) and that this acceleration is the same for all objects traveling in a vacuum.

What happens if two objects in space stop spinning? Actually, they won't, because gravity is always there to keep them in orbit. If you insist, then there is nothing in the equation about spinning, as long as two objects have mass, then there always exists a gravitational force between them.

Center of gravity

Let me end this discourse on gravity by elucidating on center of gravity. As I read your letter, I increasingly felt that your concept of gravity was not only related to gravitational forces, but to what scientists call "center of gravity," which is the point in an object where the force of gravity appears to act.

If an object is balanced at any point on the vertical line passing through its center of gravity, the object will remain balanced. But if the center of gravity is to one side of a point around which the object can pivot, then the object will turn in that direction.

Confused? Let us look at the situation of children playing on a seesaw. The "World Book Encyclopedia" has a good explanation:

"The center of gravity of a child's seesaw is at the center of the board when no one sits on it. If the seesaw is pivoted at its center, it will remain balanced. When two children of different weights get on opposite ends of the seesaw, the force of gravity will be greater on one end. The center of gravity will then be between the center of the board and the end where the greater force is acting—that is, where the heavier child is sitting. The seesaw will tilt toward that end. If the heavier child moves toward the center of the seesaw, the center of gravity also moves toward the center of the board and it will again balance.

"The force of gravity acts on all points in an object where there is mass, not simply at the center of gravity. Physicists explain how gravity acts on objects in terms of moments. The moment of the gravitational force acting on any point is found by multiplying the force times the horizontal distance to the pivot point being used. The moment has a size and a direction. That is, the moments of forces acting on one side of a seesaw tend to make it turn up or down, and the moments acting on the opposite side tend to make it turn in the opposite direction. Moments of the same size but opposite direction cancel one another, and so the seesaw does not move.

"Thus, in terms of moments, the center of gravity of any object is the point where the moments of the gravitational forces cancel one another. The center of gravity of a seesaw is at the center of the board because the moments cancel one another there. Moments of force also explain why the center of gravity of a hollow rubber ball is at its center even though no matter occurs there for gravity to act upon."

* * *

In the Jan. 20 article, the s in Heron's formula should be semi-perimeter, not perimeter. I would like to thank readers G. Baldonado, R. Eden and K. Khu for promptly calling my attention to this matter.

(Send your queries to me c/o Ateneo de Manila University, Math Dept., Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Or e-mail me at: queena@mathsci.math.admu.edu.ph)

SCIENCE /HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

DEADLY COMBINATION

Uncollected garbage and water sources

BY TESSA RELAMPAGOS SALAZAR

KEEP your garbage 100 meters away from water sources, or it may come back to you in more undesirable forms.

This was one of the reminders issued by the Center for Disease Prevention and Control, Infectious and Degenerative Disease Cluster of the Department of Health in light of the worsening garbage crisis in Metro Manila.

Dr. Eric A. Tayag, department director, said that the bottom line is preventing the spillage of garbage into vital drinking water sources.

Tayag said that in communities located on sloping land, the water source should be above the community's garbage dump, otherwise, liquid by-products from the garbage would find its way to the water.

Uncollected trash should always be covered to prevent flies from swarming there and spreading disease-causing germs, he said.

Garbage should not be piled up near wooden posts that might collapse, he added.

Disease outbreaks

Tayag warned that a potential outbreak of infectious diseases caused by garbage is not a remote possibility.

"We don't want to sound catastrophic but although there is no scientific evidence that (the incidence of) diseases have actually increased when garbage piled up, the potential (for an outbreak) exists," he said.

He added that people should not rely on this "no-evidence scenario" because if diseases are transmitted, "it will be very difficult for the DOH to control these, specially if our vulnerability is near the water source."

The DOH encouraged communities to follow the guidelines on waste segregation at the source and the disposition of garbage in landfills.

Tayag stressed that accumulation of uncollected solid waste is a measure of the health of a community. Failure in the system of garbage collection, he said, could spell a failure in the quality of life.

Tayag said DOH officials are specially wary of food- and water-borne diseases like diarrhea, hepatitis A, typhoid fever, leptospirosis and tetanus that can be acquired from garbage that has been exposed to the elements for an extended period.

The World Health Organization has identified inadequate provision for water, sanitation and garbage collection as some factors prevalent in developing countries that could lead to diseases borne by animal hosts. Animal carriers could be flies, rats, cockroaches and stray dogs and cats.

Tayag said: "Where there is solid waste, we present an opportunity for (carrier animals) to come in contact with other animals. They feed and their population grows. Depending on what disease they carry, they bring it to our homes."

Tayag warned that if the garbage crisis continues until the rainy season, the Philippines faces more alarming health problems.

STINKING health hazard

JOAN BONDOC

Breathing expert in Manila for free lectures

LEARNING to breathe could save your health and your money.

A practitioner of the Buteyko method of breathing reconditioning will give free introductory lectures this week about this revolutionary technique that has already profoundly helped many Filipinos with conditions like asthma, allergies, sleep and anxiety disorders, rhinitis, sinusitis, chronic bronchitis and even emphysema.

Dr. K.P. Buteyko, a Russian respiratory specialist, had concluded that there is a profound relationship between our breathing pattern, level of health and the occurrence of various conditions. Some of the founding fathers of modern medicine had previously reached similar conclusions.

Dr. Buteyko devised this drug-free and surgery-free method that allows one to retrain the involuntary breathing mechanism with a tailored and supervised program.

Several medical trials in Australia have already indicated that asthmatics can dramatically reduce symptoms and medication safely and quickly using the Buteyko method. The trials also indicated that one thing common to all asthmatics is that they overbreathe (an average of three times more than normal).

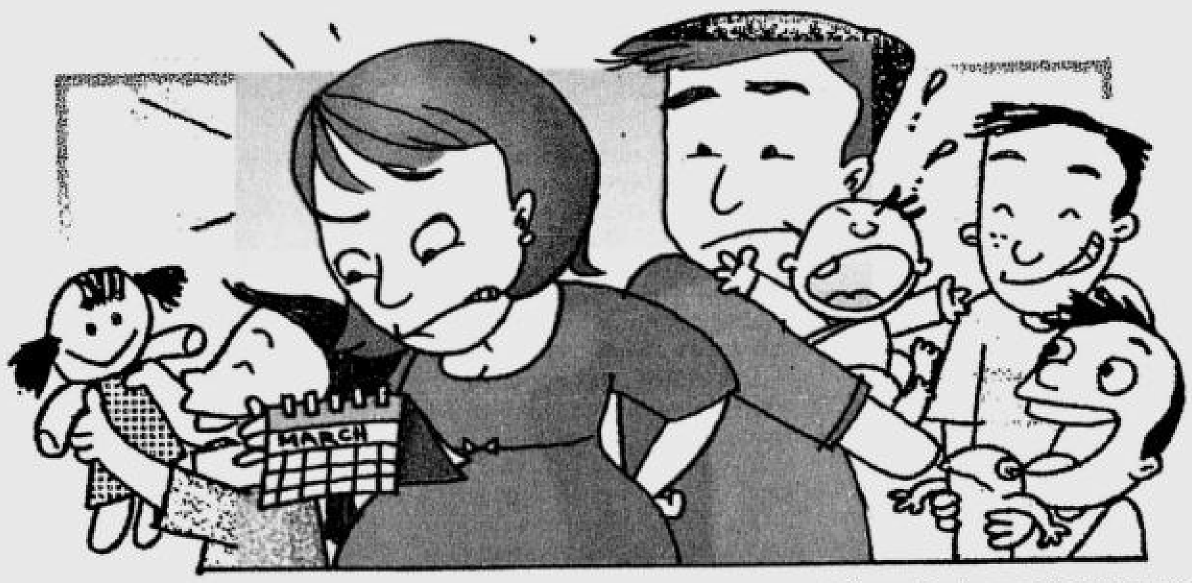
The stresses of modern society are said to be the main cause of overbreathing, which according to Buteyko practitioners also causes a whole range of other problems in the body. As participants in workshops reduce their breathing to more normal levels, many symptoms are reduced within days and sleep quality and energy levels improve. Even athletes have used the method to improve performance.

Jac Vidgen, an Australian-trained Buteyko practitioner based in Bangkok, is here to give lectures and workshops in January and February. Free introductory lectures are scheduled on Jan. 27, 11 a.m., Santuario de San Antonio Parish Center, Mckinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati; Jan. 27, 3 p.m., Earthlite Foundation, 4/F COD Department Store, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City; Jan. 28, 3 p.m., Institute of Social Order, Ateneo de Manila University, Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City.

Workshops, usually held in the evenings, are scheduled on the following dates: Sanctuario—Feb. 12, 13, 14, 19 and 21; Ateneo—Jan. 30 and 31, Feb. 1, 6, 11; Kinderhaus: Jan. 27, 28, Feb 2 and 7; Earthlite: Feb. 8, 9, 10, 15 and 20

For inquiries, call up Jac at 0917-951-2527 or 895-6031, or Palou at 929-9901 or Sonia at 427-2172, or e-mail jacvid@attglobal.net.

Family planning: Calendar method unreliable



THE CALENDAR method has proven to be an unreliable family planning method, a recent study confirmed.

In the past and until now, many couples rely on the calendar method to predict the safe (infertile) and unsafe (fertile) period in a woman's menstrual cycle to determine when she would most likely conceive. Today along with other methods such as the withdrawal and rhythm, the calendar method is not recommended because it is non-scientific and unreliable.

The calendar method was based on the probability that ovulation would occur between the 10th and 17th day from the first day of the menstrual cycle. Thus assuming that dates outside of this make the woman infertile.

But a study published in the British Medical Journal showed that of 213 women whose monthly cycles were analyzed, only 30 percent were entirely fertile within the six days of their mid-cycle.

The study showed that some women began ovulating as early as three days before the fertile or unsafe period or remained fertile well after the six days of their mid-cycle. This should serve as a word of warning to those who want to avoid pregnancy. If this family planning method is to be used, women and couples must pay attention to other biological symptoms and not merely rely on the calendar method.

The calendar method is one of the methods approved by the Vatican. And because the method was so notoriously unreliable, it was sometimes referred to as the "Vatican roulette."

Not every woman is totally regular in her cycle and situations like stress, diet and general well-being can change even a "regular" menstrual cycle.

Studies have been made where a combination of biological changes can determine the safe and unsafe period in a woman's menstrual cycle. These biological changes include basal body temperature, changes in the cervical mucus or the Billings method and the symptothermal method.

These natural family planning methods are considered scientific and more reliable. If one is to practice any of these methods, couples must be given detailed instructions on how they are to be used. Couples must personally consult with reproductive health service providers such as family planning counselors at the nearest health center.

ReachOut Foundation International, with the support of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, is currently implementing a media project to promote modern methods of contraception including the natural family planning method. The project aims to disseminate accurate information to provide women and families on family planning and reproductive health.

For more information about family planning and other reproductive health concerns, ReachOut Foundation International has a Helpline that provides non-judgmental, accurate and confidential information and counseling. The Helpline can be reached at 525-5845, from Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Those who wish may also visit the following ReachOut clinics at 2030 Adriatico St., Malate, Manila; 216 Moriones St., Tondo, Manila; or 127 Constaine corner Oak St., Balibago, Angeles City.

Fighting off fatigue

MIND and body fatigue, like other negative emotions, is troublesome and limits us both mentally and physically, which is why regulating it is so important.

Try one or several of these methods to achieve mind and body balance.

- **Exercise.** It builds muscle strength and flexibility and increases the body's tolerance to increased exertion. It can also alleviate exhaustion that could lead to fatigue. Make sure you exercise regularly even if you don't want to. You should attempt 20-30 minutes of aerobic activity at least five days a week.

A British study found that 55 percent of chronic fatigue patients who took part in a 12-week aerobic exercise program rated themselves "much" or "very much" better after the program. A year later, 74 percent of them still had improved conditions.

- **Take charge.** Believing you can cope with and control circumstances can help reduce fatigue. Exhaustion comes from feeling out of control, and uncontrolled circumstances can signal a complete loss of independence. Balance your act. Don't allow people or circumstances to dominate your plans for the day. It may also be a good idea to take regular doses of multivitamins to help you keep up with the day's grind.
- **Practice relaxation.** There is a wide range of activities that can help you cope with fatigue. Some relaxation techniques work better in relieving mind and body than others because individuals relax in different ways. Zen for example works for some people while others find yoga more effective. You might find that a more popular technique does not help you at all. The best way to find out is to try it out because you may be more adept at certain skills than others.
- **Write about what you are feeling.** Try keeping a fatigue journal. When you start to get tired, identify and write about what is causing the exhaustion. The physical act of writing down on paper what you are feeling can help ease tiredness.
- **Talk about what you are feeling.** Talking about things that are bothering you with those who will listen can be very therapeutic. Often, it is enough to put the problem into its proper perspective. Establish connections with people who will lend a friendly ear. Friends and family members can be good sources of support. The security of such a support group can eliminate or greatly reduce anxiety. Try not to avoid social contact just because you are not feeling well.
- **Do things you enjoy.** Even though it might be harder to do some of the things you enjoy, do not give them up. Maybe you cannot stay in the garden for as long or as frequently as you used to, but that's fine. Do your gardening when you can. Work some fun into your life on a regular basis and do things that make you happy.
- **Laugh off stress.** Humor is another great stress buster. Laugh your way to better physical, emotional and psychological health. How? Do what the Indians do—get a group together and have an early morning laughter session. If your life is full of stress, aggression and conflict, laughter may be just what you need to put that balance back into your life.
- **Be good to yourself.** Get enough rest. Take a hot bath. Take a vacation. Pray or meditate. Nurture yourself.
- **Eat good food and take multivitamins.** Pharmaton capsule is clinically proven to enhance mind and body. Studies suggest that Pharmaton capsule helps increase cognitive function. It also improves energy and metabolism, enhances conversion of fatty acids to energy and lets muscles perform more efficiently. With standardized Ginseng extract G115, Pharmaton capsule is a plus for people with active lifestyles. If your life is fast paced, Pharmaton can help you live to the fullest by keeping your mind and body in tune. This way, you can be sure that you will be better prepared to win the game called life.

Flu drug now available

ALTHOUGH it isn't always deadly, influenza can be unpredictable. It has been responsible for secondary complications that have the potential to kill.

According to Dr. Wilfredo Ang, a cardiology consultant at the Far Eastern University Hospital, certain people are more at risk for infection. These are those who are too young (0-5 years) or too old (above 55) and those who are in an already compromised situation due to diabetes or malnutrition. He said their defense mechanisms are unable to handle infection since their white blood cells cannot respond adequately.

For healthy individuals who are less at risk, Ang cautioned that there are instances when rest is not enough because the influenza virus can change its character. Thus, no one is exempt from the possibility that the circulating strain can be fatal for him.

Since new strains can cause death, it is wise to see a doctor when flu symptoms become apparent. Most Filipinos take flu for granted and do not see a doctor until they feel really miserable and weak. It is also a common practice to self-medicate and to buy over-the-counter drugs.

"Ninety percent of Filipinos self-medicate, which isn't always dangerous as long as you know the drugs you are buying and what their purpose is," Ang said.

But no amount of self-medication can stop a new virus strain from progressing. And commercial cough medicines may not work for the kind of respiratory problem a person may develop due to influenza.

Ang said that out of 1,000 Filipinos, about 600 or 700 will get influenza, 15 percent may get respiratory infections and probably less than 10 percent will die from these complications.

"While these figures are not staggering, any percentage associated with death is a frightening reality," Ang noted.

Ang said a medicine now available in the country called Tamiflu (oseltamivir) is "unlike other drugs because it can modify the progression of the virus, helping a patient to get well faster and preventing complications." It cures a person within 32 hours and thwarts the possibility of secondary complications. But it should be taken as soon as the symptoms of flu are evident.

STIEFEL PHILIPPINES ADDS 13 TOPICAL CORTICOSTEROID PRODUCTS TO ITS DERMATOLOGY LINE

Stiefel Laboratories recently acquired from Roche all rights, including trademarks to SYNALAR®, SYNALAR HP, SYNALAR OTIC, NEO-SYNALAR®, LIDEX®, LIDEX NGN and LIDEMOL® in the Philippines.

SYNALAR® contains the active ingredient fluocinolone while LIDEX® and LIDEMOL® share the active ingredient fluocinonide in various concentrations of creams, ointments, and solution. They are suitable as topical treatments for skin diseases such as atopic dermatitis, contact dermatitis, psoriasis, and other eczemas and inflamed skin conditons. Topical corticosteroids are effective medications for controlling and alleviating inflammation and pruritus.

Stiefel Laboratories and Roche (Switzerland) have previously collaborated on Roche's drug substance isotretinoin, to which Stiefel was granted a semi-exclusive worldwide license (excluding the USA and Canada) to use in a Stiefel-developed topical pharmaceutical formulation and subsequently in a family of products for the treatment of acne and photoaging skin, i.e., ISOTREX® Gel and Cream (isotretinoin), ISOTREXIN® Gel (2% erythromycin + isotretinoin) and ISOTREXOL® Cream (isotretinoin + sunscreen).. The senior product, ISOTREX®, is currently sold in some 60 countries around the world, including the Philippines. Its two sister products are either already available in world markets or are in the process of drug registration.

Neogin A. Evangelista, General Manager of Stiefel's 17-year old Philippines subsidiary, expressed his confidence in the Philippines-exclusive corticosteroid acquisition. The full line will be promoted to an audience in excess of 1,000 dermatologists, with an additional potential market of some 3,000 pediatricians and 6,000 general practitioners in the Philippines.

A survey ** chaired by Dr. Roberto C. Romero, published in PDS Journal, November 1999, indicates 26.7% of Filipinos suffer from significant dermatological diseases, an important health problem in the Philippines.

Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Roche is one of the world's leading research-oriented healthcare groups in the fields of pharmaceuticals, diagnostics and vitamins. Roche's innovative products and services address needs for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease, thus enhancing people's well being and quality of life. Roche has approximately 63,900 employees and sells its products in over 170 countries.

Stiefel is the largest independent dermatology specialist company in the pharmaceutical industry. Its wholly-owned global network is comprised of 36 sales/marketing subsidiaries; 7 manufacturing plants in 6 countries; and 3 R&D facilities on 3 continents. Stiefel supplements its R&D by aggressively seeking acquisitions of dermatological product lines and companies, as well as in-licensing products, throughout the world.

** *National Prevalence Survey of Fungal & Skin Diseases, Romero et al., JPDS, Vol.8:2, November 1999.*

Saturday SPECIAL

NESTOR U. TORRE, Editor EDMUND L. SICAM, Associate Editor

SHIELDS. A willingness to work hard.

Brooke Shields opts for more daring roles

BY BRIDGET BYRNE

BEVERLY HILLS, California—The audience is agog. Brooke Shields—our Brooke—performing wonders with a riff on a word not usually heard in polite society.

She's the latest in a parade of high-profile actresses to appear in the Los Angeles version of Eve Ensler's outspoken voice play, "The Vagina Monologues."

Replacement billing

The play, about the essence of being female, changes its cast every three weeks, and the replacement billing keeps getting more prominent—and perhaps more unlikely.

For Shields, it's definitely a switch from "Suddenly Susan," the cute single-girl sitcom that folded last year after four years on the US NBC broadcasting network.

So is her role in Lifetime's "What Makes a Family." She portrays Janine, a gay woman struggling to retain custody of the daughter born to her deceased lover, Sandy, played by Tony-winning actress Cherry Jones. The highly emotional true story also stars Whoopi Goldberg as Janine's lawyer.

Shields says the intimate lesbian relationship is the sounding board of the story, but the film is essentially, as the title implies, about what really defines a family.

"Does blood really dictate family? I think we could probably all answer in our own lives, but for me, I do not believe that blood is thicker than water," the 35-year-old actress says.

She is chatting between matinee and evening performances of "Monologues" at The Canon Theater in Beverly Hills.

Real struggle

Network pressure to retool the concept of "Suddenly Susan" into a relationship comedy combined with tragedy (the 1999 suicide of her friend and co-star David Strickland) made the final season a real struggle, Shields says.

"I tried to really support it, but I honestly don't think we were a show that was that broken that needed to be fixed," she says. "People really didn't want to see Susan get the guy and I think a lot of her charm was lost."

Shields immediately explored more controversial options, a move not necessarily out of character for the Princeton-educated actress who has made many bold choices during her very public life.

Did the highly emotional nature of the Lifetime story give her pause? After all Shields, a child of divorce, has been through some tough times in the last few years, including the end of her marriage to tennis champion Andre Agassi.

"I don't think it's a really safe thing to do to look at a project as being cathartic, but if there was ever a time for me to do that, I was primed for it. It was a bit dangerous emotionally, because there was so much drama in this woman's life and so much I could tap into just from the point of loss, so it was frightening."

More respect

Shields says it was an enormous help that Maggie Greenwald was the director. "I've never been directed by a female before. It just seemed like there was more respect in the room.

"There is so much difficulty in doing love scenes anyway whether same-sex couple love scenes or not. What I loved was that Maggie wasn't delicate with it and she wasn't nurturing with it, she was just very real with it. A love scene is a love scene no matter how you have to film it."

Greenwald describes Shields as an "incredibly kind, loving, completely generous person" who is also funny and smart. The director admits that she had been a little skeptical about the casting choice, but found Shields to be "gifted" with a "real willingness to work hard."

AP

Garlic-butter bun.

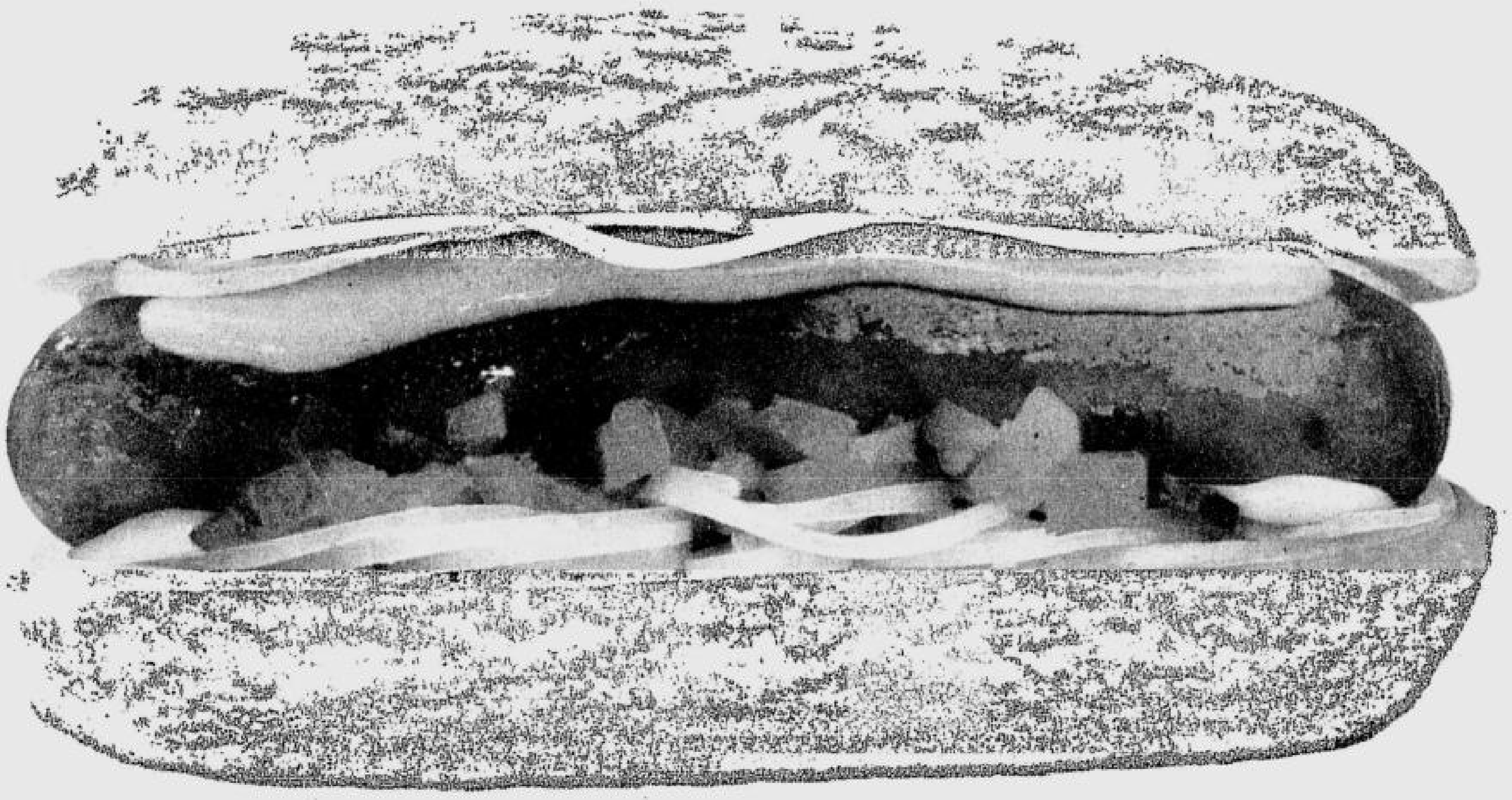
Hot & spicy onions.

Roasted garlic aioli.

Queso de bola pimiento.

Herb pesto mayo.

Smoked sausage.



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TOPPERS

Sockie Fernandez likes being first

By Mona Gonzalez

THE team behind the JVC ad.

BEING first is nothing new to Sockie Fernandez, Unitel's first woman in—house director.

Sockie is also the first Filipino woman to go into directing TV commercials full-time. "For some reason, we had women directors in film who occasionally do a TV commercial or two," Sockie says, "but specializing in TV commercials used to be strictly male territory."—that is, until Sockie came along.

New field

While breaking ground in this new field, Sockie wrestled with another stereotype—being "restricted" to doing commercials mainly with babies and mothers in them. But she made the most of it, and two of her commercials, "Karne" and Lullaby," which deal with child prostitution, have won prestigious awards.

Recently, she broke ground again with her recent JVC TV ad. She has gone high-tech, and did the first TV commercial in Manila to use motion control from start to finish. "Other commercials have used it in the past, but never this extensively," Sockie says.

What's motion control? It's a piece of equipment that resembles a railroad track with a camera on it, which is attached to a computer. Motion control enables the camera to achieve angles that were never possible before, and to perform a single movement over and over again with remarkable precision. Unitel was the first production house in the Philippines to purchase one early this year. In the past, agencies had to go overseas to make use of it.

Three products

JVC's newest ad features three products and ends with the slogan, "JVC rules." It's only fitting that a leading company in electronics innovation should make use of the latest product from the country's top production house.

The sequence of movement from golf ball to car, to CD to CD player, to a TV camera, to one's eye and to the eye of the man who swings at the golf ball, who happens to be inside a TV set ends with the slogan, "JVC Rules."

"I wanted a seamless look," Sockie says. "I didn't want it to look like there were any cuts." Motion control made the "seamless" look possible.

The task of putting it all together was done by Pete Jimenez, whose expertise in animation gave him a deeper appreciation for the tool.

"In animation, you can look at your subject from different angles, and move around your subject any which way from frame to frame. You do it by working with pencil and paper. We couldn't produce the same effect with a camera—until we worked with motion control," he says.

For example, Pete notes that in animation, you can use a "caressing" shot, where you go from very far to very near your subject, and then twist and turn around it simply by drawing the movement on each frame. Such a shot could enhance what the character may be thinking or feeling at a given moment. Now, it can be done shooting actual objects on film.

Movement and feeling

"I particularly liked the idea that we were doing this with inanimate objects," Pete says. "It gave the impression of movement and feeling to the products that we were shooting for the commercial."

Overseas, 80 percent of TV commercials require motion control, even for shoots which use actors. Motion control enables the director to block the talents and focus on their performance, without having to worry about camera movement.

"In the Philippines, everything is '*mala-mala*,'" Sockie says. "You go by your instinct, what you feel. I myself had to adjust my work style this time around. There was a lot more planning required. You had to plot your movements every step of the way."

She says it would not have been possible without her creative team—Jigs Javier, Tina Gonzalez, Abe Medenilla and Juliet Ozaeta, who "knew what they wanted, believed in me, and knew that the creative intention of the board could only be achieved through the use of motion control," Sockie says.

Test shots

With motion control they were able to do test shots so that they and the client would know what to expect. In the end, it was all for the best. Because of the planning and precision that was required, the process of making the commercial was exceptionally smooth.

Pete adds that post production was greatly facilitated as well. "In the past, it was more of a guessing game. You really weren't sure what you could expect as the outcome. But because everything was planned, we already knew how it would come out."

The Philippines is among the first countries in Asia to get motion control. Pete describes it as "a tool that enables you to tell the story in a way that uncovers its unique facets."

Sockie has the last word: "The use of motion control gives your ad a distinctive look. In the end, that's what advertising is all about—being distinctive!"

FERNANDEZ. Giving TV commercials a distinctive look.

Motion control enables the camera to achieve angles that were never possible before

Five questions for Benicio Del Toro

By Elizabeth A. Kennedy

DEL TORO Laid back attitude.

NEW YORK—Benicio Del Toro sits in a Manhattan hotel, dressed in a dark suit, sipping an espresso and puffing on a cigarette. His manner is relaxed; his voice is slow and easygoing.

Police officer

He's won best supporting actor honors from the New York Film Critics Circle and a Golden Globe nomination for his role as weary Tijuana police officer Javier Rodriguez in Steven Soderbergh's "Traffic."

Del Toro has some impressive competition for the Golden Globe award. The other nominees for best supporting actor are Jeff Bridges, "The Contender"; Willem Dafoe, "Shadow of the Vampire"; Albert Finney, "Erin Brockovich"; and Joaquin Phoenix, "Gladiator."

Is he excited?

"Yeah."

That's all he's got to say? Just "Yeah"?

"It's a nice little moment for me," the 33-year-old actor says with a slight smile.

His laid-back attitude is startling, especially when contrasted with his film roles. Del Toro's emotionally charged characters include the mumbling Fenster in "The Usual Suspects" and a gun-toting thug in "The Way of the Gun."

If he's a little wary of talking about his recent accolades, Del Toro is happy to heap praise on others. He speaks effusively about his favorite books, Ernest Hemingway's "For Whom the Bell Tolls" and Hunter S. Thompson's "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas"; actors he respects, Robert De Niro and Lon Chaney Sr.; and his favorite directors, Soderbergh and Sean Penn.

Two new films

Del Toro has two new films opening this month: "Snatch," directed by Guy Ritchie (Madonna's husband) and starring Brad Pitt, and "The Pledge," directed by Penn and starring Jack Nicholson.

Your character in "Snatch" is described as making "stupid bets with dangerous people." Do you gamble?

No, not really. I sometimes do it but I like to go play blackjack with someone who really knows. Someone who can give me a sign, you know, 'Hit, don't hit. Pass.' I need help.

How do you choose your roles?

The script has to be clear to me. And from there I go into the next mode which is, do I have any questions about it? And if I have any questions about it, I go and talk to the director. Rarely do I read a script and think, 'Oh, this is flawless.' But the script is the foundation of every film.

Do you hope you'll get an Oscar nomination for "Traffic"?

There's always hope. I mean, you're only as good as your films, so it's great being in a film like 'Traffic,' and being complimented.

Situation

It's really nice to be in that situation where the movie's good, and the director's being recognized, too. I'd be kind of afraid if it was just me alone. ... It is what it is, and I've just got to get up and find my next movie.

With all the attention that "Traffic" and "Snatch" are getting, do you foresee a difference in the kinds of films you'll be offered now?

It's beyond my control. I've just got to stick to what I do. I'm an actor. Hopefully what will happen is that I'll be able to do stories that I think will challenge me, challenge the audience. Work with people that I respect. But I've been lucky. I've worked in really solid movies.

How did you react when your family moved from Puerto Rico to Pennsylvania when you were 13?

I took it for what it is. Never really did I think, "Oh my God, what am I doing here?" People are people everywhere. Human beings can adapt to anything. We have four years now to adapt to a new president. I'm sure we'll survive. *AP*

Gwyneth Paltrow turns in an exceptional performance

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

PALTROW. Plays a young widow in "Bounce."

WATCH out for Gwyneth Paltrow's rivetting performance in "Bounce." In the film, she plays the wife of a man (Tony Goldwyn) who dies in a plane crash.

What's interesting about the movie is it's backstory: Goldwyn exchanged tickets with a stranger (played by Ben Affleck) who decided to spend the night in Chicago with a one-night stand.

Paltrow's character doesn't know anything about this, of course. But Affleck is stricken with pangs of conscience and seeks the young widow out to set things right.

Instead, he finds himself falling in love with her. Affleck struggles to tell her the truth but fails because he's afraid of losing her.

The story is centered around Affleck's character, but Paltrow's depiction of the young widow is so painfully true that viewers focus on her character. Paltrow does so well in the film that some observers believe that she's surpassed even her critically-acclaimed performance in "Shakespeare In Love."

Folkus at Calesa Bar

The Folkus folk duo of Elvin Padama and Edwin Dimaranan performs at the Hyatt's famous Calesa Music Bar and Lounge weekdays from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Folkus' easydoing and "unplugged" kind of music suits the Happy Hour crowd just fine, as businessmen and office workers unwind after a long and stressful day at work.

It's good that Calesa Bar is opting for more varied entertainment, aside from its staple fare of lovely and talented chanteuses (the place has discovered dozens of today's singing stars).

In the months to come, we hope to see the intimate venue also showcase musical-comedy performers and the country's best instrumentalists.

Gifted veteran actor

Tommy Abuel is nothing short of amazing. He first started portraying Crisostomo Ibarra in "Kanser" two decades ago, and at 7 p.m. this Sunday, Jan. 28, he will play the part for the umpteenth time in the latest restaging of Jomar Fleras' dramatization of Jose Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere," this time on Concert in the Park at Rizal Park's Open Air Auditorium.

Tommy has been acting since the '60s, but he's kept himself looking so well that he still plays lead roles to this day, while most of his contemporaries have settled for character parts or cameos, or have stopped acting completely.

The theater community should honor Tommy for his "creative longevity" and present him with a lifetime achievement award. Aside from Crisostomo Ibarra, the veteran actor has effectively essayed many of the greatest stage roles ever written.

He has many more good performances left in him, but a lifetime achievement honor would inspire him to do even better in the future. Why not a cultural award for Tommy from the city of Manila during the Araw ng Maynila celebration this year?

'Who Owns Women's Bodies?'

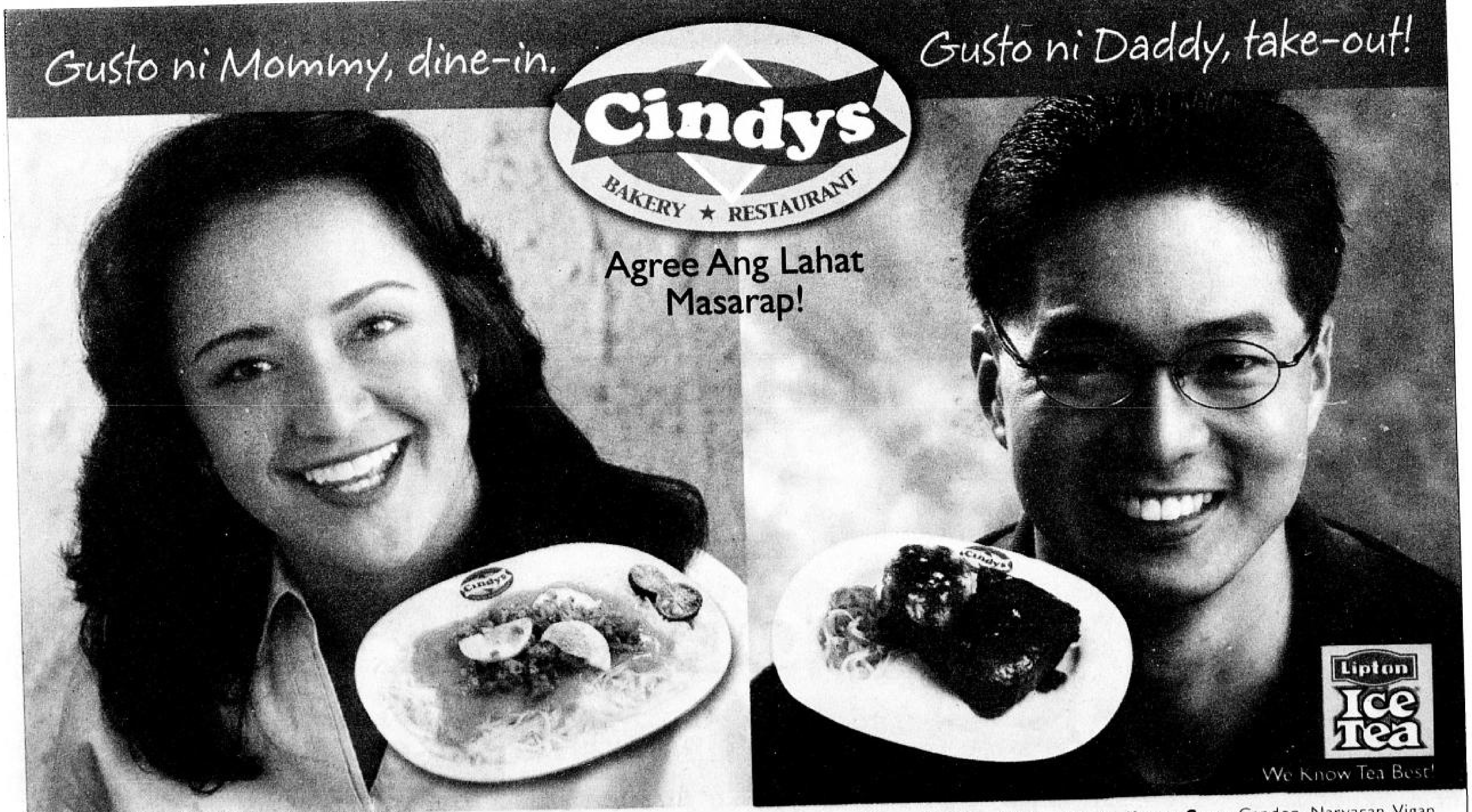
From Feb. 8 to March 31, the Creative Collective Center will present "Who Owns Women's Bodies?," a visual arts exhibit that has been chosen as the main exhibit for National Arts Month (February) this year.

Thirty outstanding artists are presenting new works at the CCP's Bulwagang Juan Luna. The exhibit will be launched at the CCP Little Theater Lobby at 5 p.m. on Feb. 8.

The Creative Collective Center is a non-profit group that helps women and environment NGOs through publications and events.

Its executive director, Rochit I. Tañedo, says that the opening ceremonies will be highlighted by a monologue, "Libog," written by Lualhati Bautista and performed by Malu de Guzman.

Cynthia Alexander, Cooky Chua and Bagong Dugo will also render some musical numbers.



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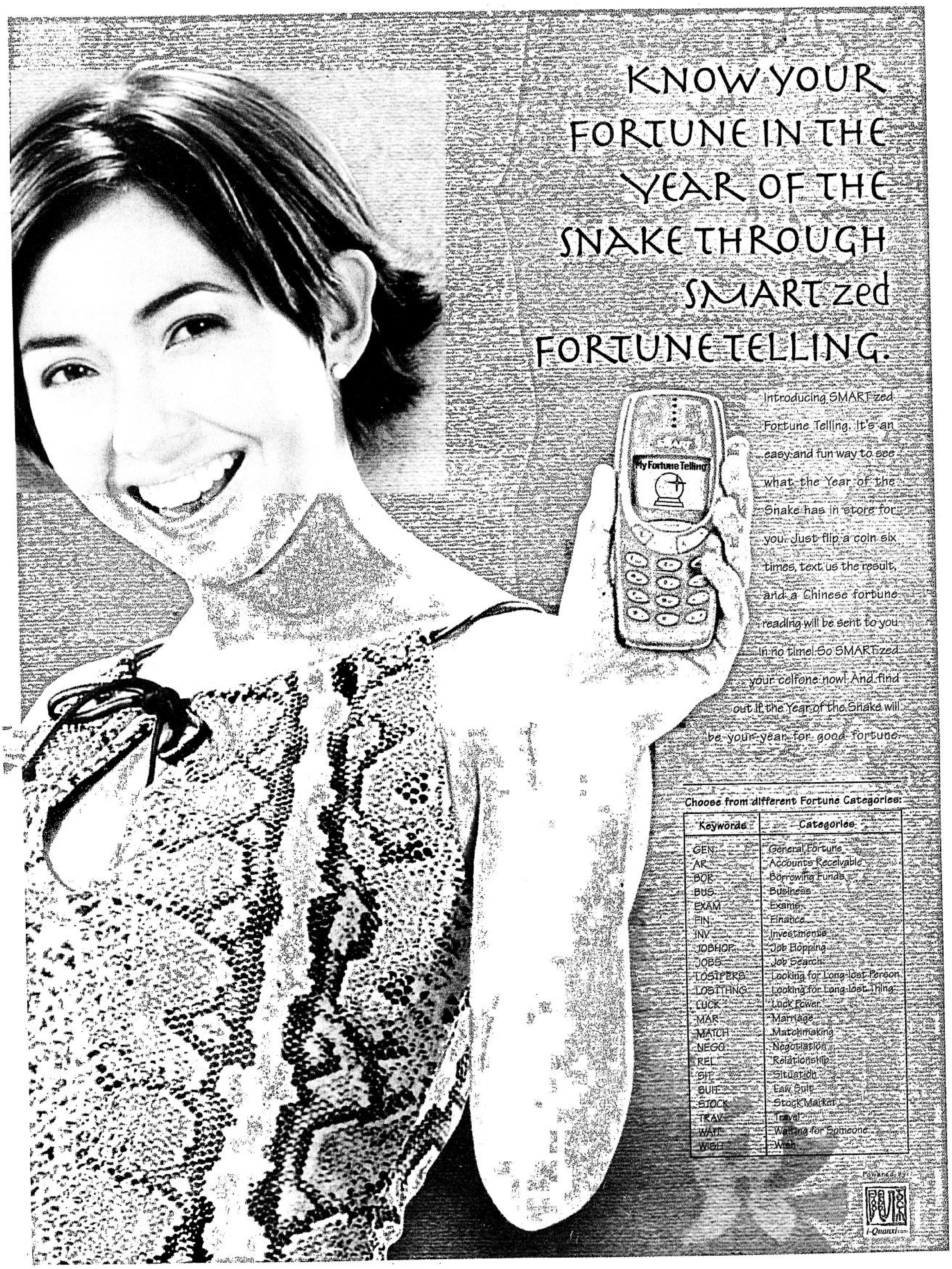

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FIN	Finance
INV	Investments
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JOBS	Job Search
LOSTPERS	Looking for Long-lost Person
LOSTTHNG	Looking for Long-lost Thing
LUCK	Luck Power
MAR	Marriage
MATCH	Matchmaking
NEGO	Negotiation
REL	Relationship
SIT	Situation
SUIT	Law Suit
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TRAV	Travel
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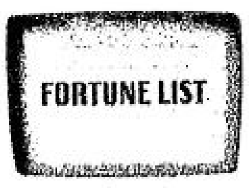

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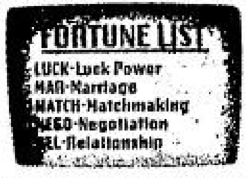
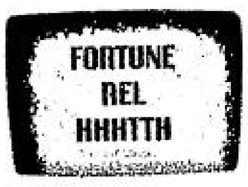


FORTUNE LIST
LUCK-Luck Power
MAR-Marriage
MATCH-Matchmaking
NEGO-Negotiation
REL-Relationship

4. Get a coin and flip 6 times taking note of the outcome. H (head) T (tail)

5. Type fortune <category> <6 outcomes> and send to 288.



FORTUNE
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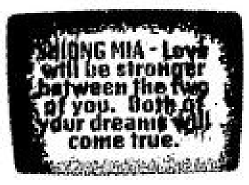
6. You will then receive your fortune.



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FORTUNE
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6. You will then receive your fortune.

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Hollywood movies escalate their war on drugs

By Anthony Breznican

LOS ANGELES—If Hollywood had a message in the last year, it could be found in the 1970s-era rock 'n' roll movie "Almost Famous."

"Don't take drugs!" pleads Frances McDormand as a nervous mother who drops off her 15-year-old son at a Black Sabbath concert.

"Don't take drugs! Don't take drugs!" mocks a chorus of concertgoers.

Gritty dramas

From gritty dramas like "Traffic" and "Requiem for a Dream" to thoughtful comedies like "Wonder Boys" and "Almost Famous," some of the better films of 2000 touched on lives and careers ruined by addiction. All of those films received Golden Globe nominations and could fare equally well at the Academy Awards.

Many filmmakers say Hollywood has begun escalating its own war on drugs. What's seen on screen, however, can sometimes seem at odds [illegible] a subculture traditionally known for bacchanalian excess.

Federal drug-enforcement officials note that Hollywood has a checkered history in depicting drugs' consequences.

"But it looks to us like they're trying hard to do a better job showing an accurate portrayal of the damage drug abuse does," said Bob Weiner, spokesman for the White House office of National Drug Control Policy.

"There were some positive messages about the need for family involvement and positive work of drug enforcement agents," he added. "There's less ambiguity now. With movies like 'Trainspotting,' I had trouble telling whether the message was pro or con."

Analysts

Film-industry analysts say substance abuse is no longer considered glamorous.

"It's kind of out of style, and that makes it time to capitalize on the anti-drug message," said Robert Bucksbaum of Reel Source Inc., a firm that tracks the box office.

No one making a movie wants to be preachy, but many say they have weathered too much damage from drug abuse to stay silent.

"I don't know a single person who hasn't smoked pot or tried some sort of drug," said Stephen Gaghan, the "Traffic" screenwriter. "At some point, it becomes hypocritical not to address it."

Gaghan said he initially named a character after a friend as an inside joke but then changed it when he found out the friend had died of a heroin overdose.

"There's a lot of personal experience in this one," Gaghan said. "I hope it seems truthful."

Benicio Del Toro, who plays a Mexican drug officer who finds he has unwittingly aided a cartel in "Traffic," said he wanted to create "a conversation piece" about how the US war on drugs doesn't solve the problem of addiction.

Power

"People (in Hollywood) are starting to know the power they have in cutting (drug use) down somewhat," he said. "We can show the bigger picture of the problem."

The balance between entertaining and lecturing, however, can be precarious. "Requiem for a Dream," for example, presented such an unrelentingly grim portrait of four junkies that it was hard for mainstream audiences to endure.

"It's a difficult movie, and my only worry is that not enough people will get to see it," said "Requiem" star Ellen Burstyn, who plays an aging housewife destroyed by a diet-pill addiction.

"People will go to great lengths to avoid reality, and over the years our addictions have changed and become much more lethal," Burstyn said. "I think that if movies like this encourage people to stay in their reality, we will have done a service."

Such cautionary tales frequently have come from Hollywood—including gritty dramas like "Lost Weekend" (alcoholism), "The Man with the Golden Arm" (heroin) and "Less Than Zero" (cocaine), and sometimes silly propaganda like "Reefer Madness."

True story

Those movies typically show drug users coming to no good. "Blow," scheduled for April release and based on a true story, ends with Johnny Depp's character doing hard time after flying high for years as the top coke smuggler for Colombia's Medellin cartel—a one-man, $35-billion-a-year conduit.

Even comedies like "Arthur" and the "Cheech & Chong" movies depict their alcohol- and marijuana-dependent protagonists as hopeless bumblers who can't function in regular life—even though they're having fun (or think they are).

The high-caliber of filmmaking dedicated to recent movies dealing with addiction illustrates how important anti-drug messages have become in the entertainment industry. ("Traffic" was even able to persuade real-life politicians, Sens. Orrin Hatch and Barbara Boxer, to appear in cameo roles.)

Filmmakers say the star power and big budgets allocated to such movies is a sign that Hollywood is taking its ability to fight drugs more seriously than ever.

"Drugs are a big problem in any society, including Hollywood, and the presence of the problem is not to be denied," said "Wonder Boys" director Curtis Hanson.

Farce

"Wonder Boys" plays like a farce, with Michael Douglas as a dope-smoking professor whose professional and personal lives spin out of control over the course of a weekend.

"His character avoids dealing with very important issues, and self-medication that he indulges in allows him to not come to grips with it," Hanson said. "When he comes to realize that, he can make some hard choices and is better for it."

The message is especially poignant, he said, considering the movie co-stars Robert Downey Jr., whose career has been sidetracked yet again by a drug arrest.

Downey, also a Golden Globe winner for a series of guest spots on the Fox comedy "Ally McBeal," is someone many people can relate to, Hanson said.

"The reality is that a lot of people, even outside the entertainment industry, have family members suffering from addiction," he said.

Television, too, has tried to show the ravages of drug abuse. "The West Wing," which won a record-setting nine Emmys in September, has tackled the subject of substance abuse with the character of White House Chief of Staff Leo McGarry, who has battled pills and alcohol.

"It's finally coming out of the closet as a health problem, not a criminal problem," said the show's creator, Aaron Sorkin. "I think that as people become more aware of that about addiction, they find there are interesting ways to tell stories about it."

AP

ERIKA Christensen (left) snorts drugs as Tropher Grace works on a laptop computer in the movie "Traffic."

Time stood still

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

THERE is a saying that time waits for no man. But just last week, during one of those rare and special moments, time made an exception for the Filipino people.

Trial

It all started Tuesday last week. I was on my way to the Senate to interview Lauro Vizconde. The Senate Blue Ribbon Committee had summoned Lauro since his name was being linked to the ongoing impeachment trial and I wanted to get his side regarding the matter.

As usual, my radio was tuned in to DZMM. Like everyone else, I was monitoring how the impeachment trial was coming along. Nothing was out of the ordinary.

So, imagine my surprise when, after the interview, I heard Senator-Judge Nene Pimentel say over DZMM that he was resigning! And then I heard the announcer say that some of the senators like Drilon and Legarda were crying.

I immediately texted a friend to inquire what was happening. My friend replied that 11 out of 21 senators refused to have an envelope linking Estrada to the *jueteng* scandal opened.

Initially, I felt sad because I knew that this meant chaos for the nation. But, like many others, I thought it was a technicality that could still be settled in a few days.

Spark

Little did I know that it was the spark that would lead to People Power II. True enough, in the next few hours, people began gathering at the Edsa Shrine. I got goosebumps when I saw the vast number of people protesting what happened.

Dozens of show biz personalities, who up to that point had remained silent about their political stand, came to speak before the people at Edsa. This was quite unexpected considering that President Joseph Estrada was a big part of the movie industry.

Of course, there were already anti-Erap actors and show biz personalities like the Apo Hiking Society, Laurice Guillen and the Pangilinan clan (led by Anthony and Kiko) before. But I never thought that their numbers would swell to such proportions.

Family friend

The first surprise defector that Wednesday afternoon was Gov. Bong Revilla, a longtime family friend of the Estradas and Jinggoy's close friend.

When Bong asked President Estrada to resign before the cameras, I knew how hurt and sad he was. But Bong knew his responsibility as governor of his people. Later, I found out that he and Lani asked for the blessings of Fernando Poe Jr. and Sen. Ramon Revilla before going to Edsa.

Superstar

The second and biggest surprise defection happened that Thursday in the person of superstar Nora Aunor. Guy had been a solid supporter and good friend of President Erap from Day One. In fact, many people believe that Nora's campaigning for Erap was the biggest weapon that helped sway the *masa* to vote for Erap.

I managed to get hold of Guy through her phone and asked her what had made her withdraw her support.

"Di ko na kaya. Nung nakita ko sa TV *na ayaw ipabukas ang* envelope *at nung nakita ko na nag-iyakan na sina* Loren, *alam kong kailangan ko nang magsalita. Matagal ko nang tinitiis ito,"* Nora said just before she took to the stage.

After that, everything happened fast and furious. And on Saturday, Erap and his family left the Palace. For one brief moment, I felt like I was watching a movie. Unlike any Erap movie, however, he didn't emerge as the hero in the end.

Steady and calm

Looking at Jinggoy's face, I realized that he did not know what had hit them. First Lady Loi, on the other hand, was steady and calm, as any good wife should be. The way she clutched at Erap's arm said a lot of things no words could ever say.

TIME/C5

There are actors–and actors

By Nestor U. Torre

SINCE I've acted in some 150 plays and I've been directing since the '70s, young theater talents keep asking me about the ideal actor-director relationship. My standard answer is a major cop-out: "Well, it *depends* on the actor and the director."

"Gee, thanks," the students must mutter to themselves as they move testily away.

Cop-out

The answer *is* a cop-out, but it also happens to be true. In my experience in theater, TV and film, I've met and worked with all sorts of actors. Here's a partial rundown, to show you how confoundingly confusing the situation can be:

There's the ideal actor, the perceptive amateur psychologist who has developed his mind, heart and performing abilities (speaking, movement, singing, dancing, etc.) so well that you can put him in a role and leave the character crafting pretty much to him, with little care and feeding needed to bring him up to peak level by opening night. Alas, this type of actor is hard to come by these days.

Bad habits

You do get experienced actors, but the "stars" among them think too highly of themselves and start developing a lot of bad habits and stock mannerisms that they keep using over and over again, instead of coming up with a fresh characterization each time, as all versatile actors are supposed to do.

As director, you have to spend a lot of time helping the puffed-up actor get rid of all those bad acting habits, and to remember that the actor should be at the service of his role, *not* his own ego.

Only after you have brought him back to the basics can the "star" actor come up with an exciting characterization, not the umpteenth rehash of what made him famous 30 years ago.

Killer looks

On the other hand, there's the unknown who excites everybody because of his good looks and appeal—but that's all he has to bank on. You have the tough job of making him realize that there's much more to acting than killer looks and sleeping with the right people for upward mobility's sake.

He has to know about script analysis, getting his physical equipment ready through workshops, how to work with the other actors in a scene, how to relate to the audience, etc. That's a huge load for tyros to bear, and many of them fall short.

Major bore

Then there's the actor who's so nice and disciplined and cooperative that he turns out to be a major bore onstage. You have to tell him that audiences can't learn anything from bland actors, that life should be about conflict and passion and desperate need—*so stop being so nice*!

Of course, there's the actor who will contradict all that and come on so strong, undisciplined and self-obsessed that you feel like throwing him out of the window. To *him* you say that the theater welcomes madness like his, yes, but there's got to be *method* to it. So, shape up or ship out!

Blanks

Quite a number of people become actors because there's something lacking in their lives, so they love playing other people to fill in those blanks in their actual existence. Some of these actors also yearn for the audience's applause because they're terribly insecure and need a lot of affirmation (*kulang sa pansin*, in other words!).

How do you deal with this kind of actor? You have to make him realize that the theater *can't* do what he wants it to do for him, so he should quit acting and hire himself a paid hack who won't do anything the whole day except loudly extol his ostensible virtues.

Characters

If the insecure actor insists on remaining in theater, he has to refocus his understanding of acting and concentrate, not on himself and his needs, but solely on the characters he is supposed to serve and vivify.

Yet another kind of actor just wants to play bit and supporting parts, and gets absolutely terrified when you give him a lead role. Or make him play a character that's very different from his own personality. Or make him act in a language he doesn't feel comfortable with.

In other words, this actor is perfectly happy to remain in his cozy corner, and hopes you will continue casting him as Houseboy No. 2 until he's old and gray. But you tell him that all actors must grow, reach out, take risks, because the theater deals with *life*, and life is continually changing and evolving. So, dare to do something new, or pack up and leave!

True feelings

Finally, there's the actor who's scared of showing his true feelings, of baring his soul. *"Hanggang dito na lang ako,"* his timid performance says to the audience—so keep away!

Well, this kind of actor just has to realize that acting is being, acting is believing, and acting has to be confessional. In other words, you *have* (there are no ifs and buts) to lend your *genuine* emotions to the character you're playing, and you can do that only if you make everything as real as you can, and don't hide anything.

"SLASH CUT" on Betsy Artadi's naturally thick and wavy hair.

ANGELA Jiandani wears her hair in an inverted pyramid cut.

Pursuit of beauty at Paradigm Salon

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

WHAT are young misses made of? Sugar and spice and everything nice—and cellphones and schoolbooks and MTV, of course. That's what I discovered when I checked on two PYTs, meaning Pretty Young Things, who visited Paradigm Salon at Level 3, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center (tel. nos. 840-3876 and 840-3885).

Ego massage

It's that place with a futuristic look, all silver and steel. And when you go up to the second floor via a semicircular metallic flight of steps, you enter a cavernous hub dedicated to the pursuit of beauty and ego massage.

Hey, even the toilet is made to look like a plane's lavatory. Fun and funky? You bet, and you'll fancy going there for a shampoo, hot oil, and other pampering treatments.

Mel Quita, senior hairstylist, sizes up the two 17-year-old high school seniors in front of him.

"I am giving both of them slash cuts," Mel declares as his fingers holding a pair of trimming scissors fairly fly. "You will see that the cut works even if Angela has straight hair and Betsy has wavy hair."

Tresses

Angela Jiandani surveys her tresses that have been "carved" into an inverted pyramid at the back, and Betsy Artadi wonders if she can still style her newly-cut hair into a pony tail.

Betsy is of the Artadi clan of ramp and photographic models. Remember Babot, Coco, Cecile and Becca back in the '70s and '80s? Even Betsy's father, Antonio, modeled. A typical Artadi, Betsy stands 5'8" tall, and is still growing. She is said to closely resemble her aunt, Cecile.

Both girls are given a shampoo, their hair blow-dried and rolled up in jumbo velcro rollers for volume, then given a final styling. "Make-up for these natural goodlookers is light and natural, nude," Mel says as he deftly shapes their brows, spreads his palettes of brushes and colors and weaves his magic. Voila! The transformation is impressive.

Catch this tip from Mel: "Paradigm Salon at Glorietta caters to career people on the way up or already at the top of the ladder, and our services are top-rate. Yet they are offered at very competitive mall salon prices."

Best Chinese cuisine in town

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

THERE are many good restaurants in the Manila area. I know this from experience and from tips I have receive from other foodies. Problem is, the place is a bit far and getting there eats up a good part of your day. So, when an appointment takes me to the vicinity, I explore.

Excited

We had gone to Harrison Plaza for a meeting that finished just before noon. I was very excited about where to have lunch. Since Chef Rox had never been to this small Chinese restaurant along Mabini named Hohoi, we decided to dine there.

I had bragged about this place to many friends before. The quality of food this place produces is equal to if not better than many of the fine-dining Chinese restaurants in big hotels in Makati.

All these Makati restaurants have Chinese chefs from Hong Kong, so it is no wonder they produce amazing Chinese cuisine. Problem is, when you leave, you limp because one pocket which had cash before you dined is now so much lighter then the other!

Results

Hohoi is run and owned by Andy Ng, who was once responsible for causing all those limps. Andy does the cooking and the results are exactly like the five star hotels' fare, but at a fraction of the price. It is like dining in a Hong Kong restaurant along the side streets of Nathan.

When we walked in, the place was not so full. The first thing that came to mind was, "The taste of the food might have changed. Why is the place not full?"

Flavorful

On the walls was a list of dishes being offered. We started with Crispy Hong Kong Chicken. The skin was unbelievably crispy, the meat was flavorful, and it was served with a combination of ground salt, pepper and cinnamon.

Another dish was fishhead with ginger and onion. Good, but I preferred the one with curry sauce. The broccoli flowers with garlic was simple but tasty. Then we had the scallops with X.O. sauce. A bit spicy, it was also delicious. What made me remember the Hong Kong cuisine was the salted fish fried rice. It was simple, a bit yellowish in color, loose, and the taste was just perfect. Authentic!

All the dishes were cooked to perfection and the tastes were subtle. I cannot recall finding better-tasting Chinese food in town.

Forgotten

I realized that the place might have been forgotten by some foodies out here. It's time to remind you of this goldmine in our midst.

Hohoi restaurant is along Mabini in Ermita. Going towards Roxas blvd., pass Quirino ave., turn right on Mabini and it'll be on your left side. Happy eating!

Some street parliamentarians' favorite movies

By Behn Cervantes

THE MEETING place is the Petron gasoline station at the corner of Pasay rd. and Edsa., one of the five spots where bombs exploded on *that* bloody Saturday of recent memory. A short religious ceremony is to be held in memory of all those who were victims of that mindless act of violence, as well as an occasion to condemn ever-increasing acts of fascism.

Ceremony

The ceremony was sponsored by COPA (Coalition of Philippine Affairs), Couples for Christ and other organizations. On the way there, I decided to consider my deadlines. Why didn't I interview some key figures in the rally on a topic rather detached from the occasion? That way, their minds could be given a brief respite.

In TV producer-director Maria Vargas Montelibano's Starex van, I asked my question: What are your three favorite movies, and why?

Nation in crisis

Maria: "I loved 'The Patriot.' The storyline is simple although it deals with a nation in crisis. Hints of the Philippines today, *di ba?* The character development is swift, consistent and admirable. You recognize these characters. It is a magnum opus of Mel Gibson, a superb actor-director when you consider his great achievement in 'Braveheart.' I loved that, too.

"'Casablanca,' of course. (Why, of course?) Romance, romance, romance! Romance is not around anymore except for those many liaisons of Erap, but that's another thing, *di ba*?

Impressive

"'The Matrix.' The production concept was most impressive. Its handling of virtual reality and special effects was awesome. The psyche—everything happens at the same time and the implication that things are inter-dimensional makes you wonder about its possibility. There was great technological advancement exploited artistically for entertainment purposes."

We arrive at the spot. There is nobody there. We decide to have coffee somewhere nearby. When we come back, we find Sanlakas members preparing for the ceremony. I pose my question to Couple for Christ advocate Triccie Cepeda Sison. She replies immediately, and with characteristic predictable energy.

MONTELIBANO. Her list includes "The Patriot," "Casablanca" and "The Matrix."

"'Gone With The Wind.' I love Rhett Butler. Clark Gable was the epitome of the bon vivant. I love Vivien Leigh as Scarlett O'Hara, of course. She was the beauty of yore with a lot of spunk. Her character's contrast to that of the sweetness of Melanie portrayed by Olivia de Havilland was so well done. If there is a woman I want to be, it is Scarlett O'Hara—with the face of Vivien Leigh, naturally. The movie was pure romance without being drippy.

Hoy, why are we talking about movies? We're in a rally! What other movies are memorable?

Theme

"'The Patriot' because it is the theme of our times. I would love for Filipinos to resurrect their sense of patriotism, to take care of *bayan*. Democracy is at a great risk today, after all.

"'Casablanca,' of course. (Second 'of course' when referring to this 1943 Academy Award-winning romance *cum* propaganda.) Enthralling. Ingrid (Bergman) was ethereal, sensual and mysterious, And, that song, 'As Time Goes By,' says it all!"

I approach former public relations practitioner Carmita Francisco and ask her the same question. Her answers:

"'Casablanca,' of course. (Third 'of course'!) It was sensual without having scenes of overt sex. It captured the essence of love along with self-sacrifice. It had the mystery of the exotic locale as well as the suspense of the time. The movie captured both personal and external stress.

"'Roman Holiday.' Pure delight!

"'Il Postino.' I saw it six times. *Talagang maganda.*"

I next spot columnist Argee Guevarra. His favorite films:

Scope

"'Oro, Plata, Mata.' The finest Filipino period film in my opinion. It had scope and great ambition.

" 'Karnal.' It was a great treatment of a rather dark subject.

" 'Sister Stella L.' was memorable and most significant to me because it was the first time we La Sallites (Greenhills) sloganeered inside a moviehouse. We shouted slogans against the Marcos dictatorship. I think Teddy (Casiño, Bayan president) was there, too. We hollered, 'Marcos Hitler! Diktador! Tuta!' Erap is no different."

All Filipino movies? I ask him. *"Aba,* yes," as he walks away to light blue commemorative candles at the gaping hole where the bomb exploded and killed two policemen in the line of duty.

I ask Angel Tatlonghari, UP Rep alumna, street parliamentarian and (rally) program coordinator to name her favorites.

Strong statement

" 'Julia.' It is a story of the courage of women during most difficult times. It is a strong statement against the horrors of the Holocaust and dictatorship. I identified with the good and evil represented in that movie. The women are admirable—the enigmatic Julia portrayed by the brilliant Vanessa Redgrave and the sturdy but sensitive Lillian Hellman of Jane Fonda. They serve as role models for life.

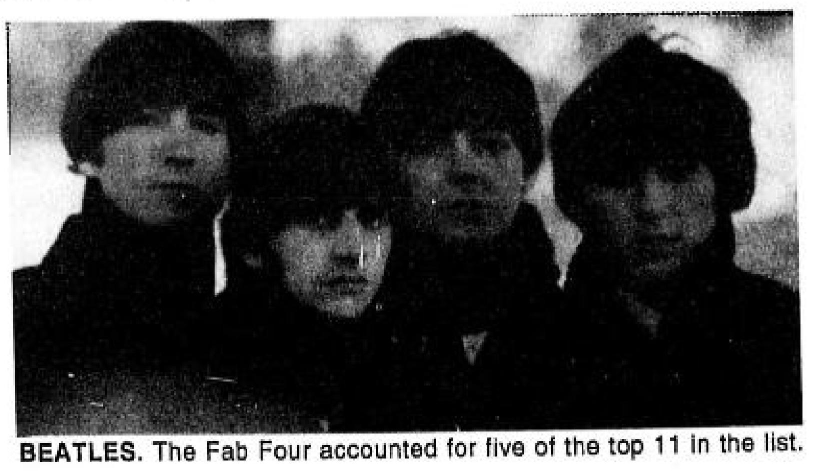
" 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest.' Brilliant portrayal of man's inhumanity to man. The acting was uniformly great, and the movie's vivid scenes are still etched in my mind.

" 'Of Mice and Men.' The film based on John Steinbeck's classic is about familial love and ties during very difficult times. That is so rare today in our fragmented society. John Malkovich (in the latest version of the novel) was poignant. His characterization was stirring and memorable."

Excuse me, but I have to check if the priest (for the memorial service) has arrived. Oh no, it's that Robert Reyes!"

The ceremony takes place. I postpone my interview. It is time to shout "Erap Resign Now!"

(To be concluded)



BEATLES. The Fab Four accounted for five of the top 11 in the list.

Beatles' 'Revolver' judged best rock 'n' roll album

By David Bauder

NEW YORK—"Revolver," which bridged the Beatles' moptop era with their experimental years in the studio, was judged the best album in rock 'n' roll history by experts in a VH1 poll released Thursday.

The Beatles accounted for five of the top 11 on VH1's list of the 100 greatest albums.

Respondents

VH1 polled more than 500 journalists, music executives and artists. Wyclef Jean, Britney Spears, Carole King, Jackson Browne, Elvis Costello and Roberta Flack were among the respondents.

"Revolver," which was released in 1966, included "Eleanor Rigby," "She Said She Said," "Taxman," "Here, There and Everywhere" and "Tomorrow Never Knows."

" 'Revolver' is just invulnerable," said Bill Flanagan, VH1 executive producer. "Every track is great. Every track is like a polished jewel."

The album's reputation has grown recently, particularly when its CD re-release restored songs left off the original American record. It has eclipsed the better-known "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," which was No. 10 on VH1's list but judged only the fourth best Beatles album.

"Rubber Soul" (No. 6), "Abbey Road" (No. 8) and "The Beatles," also known as the White album (No. 11), were the other Beatles discs on the list.

Concert tour

Nirvana's 1991 "Nevermind," which launched the grunge rock era, was No. 2 on the list, followed by the Beach Boys' 1966 "Pet Sounds," which founder Brian Wilson performed in its entirety on a concert tour last year.

Works by two artists who died under tragic circumstances rounded out the top 5: Marvin Gaye's socially conscious "What's Going On" from 1971 and the Jimi Hendrix Experience's "Are You Experienced?" from 1967.

The oldest music on the list was from Elvis Presley's "Sun Sessions," recorded in 1954-55 although not released as an album until 1976, and the newest was Lauryn Hill's 1998 "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill" (No. 37).

The Rolling Stones and Bob Dylan each had four albums on the list. Artists with three each included Led Zeppelin, The Who, Aretha Franklin, Hendrix, Prince, Paul Simon and Michael Jackson.

While mega-selling albums like Jackson's "Thriller" (No. 23) and Carole King's "Tapestry" (No. 39) made the list, many judged influential were poor sellers at the time.

Examples include Kraftwerk's 1977 "Trans-Europe Express" (No. 56), Television's 1977 "Marquee Moon" (No. 83) and the late Jeff Buckley's 1994 debut, "Grace" (No. 73). *AP*

Time stood still

(From page C4)

Erap is lucky to have a wife who would stand by him no matter what.

As for Erap, I really felt sad for him. What happened was a blow to the show biz industry, the world from which he came. He was the first actor in our nation's history to have landed the highest position in the land, and he blew it. Yet despite every accusation hurled at him, I will always remember Erap, the person: A man whom I could talk to, who had many plans for the entertainment industry.

I do not know what will happen now, especially to the people who belong to the entertainment industry. For sure, it will take some time before people trust actors once more. That's why I advise actors who still want to enter politics to make sure that they can do the job well. People are more vigilant now, more aware of their rights and willing to fight for them, if need be.

Lessons

What are the lessons of Edsa? One of the most important is this: If we want change, we must start from within ourselves. We must reform our attitudes. We must change our culture of mudslinging and replace it with unity and cooperation.

Another important lesson: Prayer is the answer. When time stood still last week, it was because God willed it to happen so we could see His glory all over again. Time stood still because we asked for it. And He heard our prayers.

We may sometimes think that in this life, we are the actors, the stars of our own universe. Perhaps. But make no mistake about it: God always writes the script and directs it.

MATH WASN'T THEIR FAVORITE SUBJECT UNTIL...
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A.L.O.H.A. stands for Alternative Learning On Higher Arithmetic. A.L.O.H.A. mental arithmetic is a unique method that works in stages, and at a style and pace that kids enjoy!
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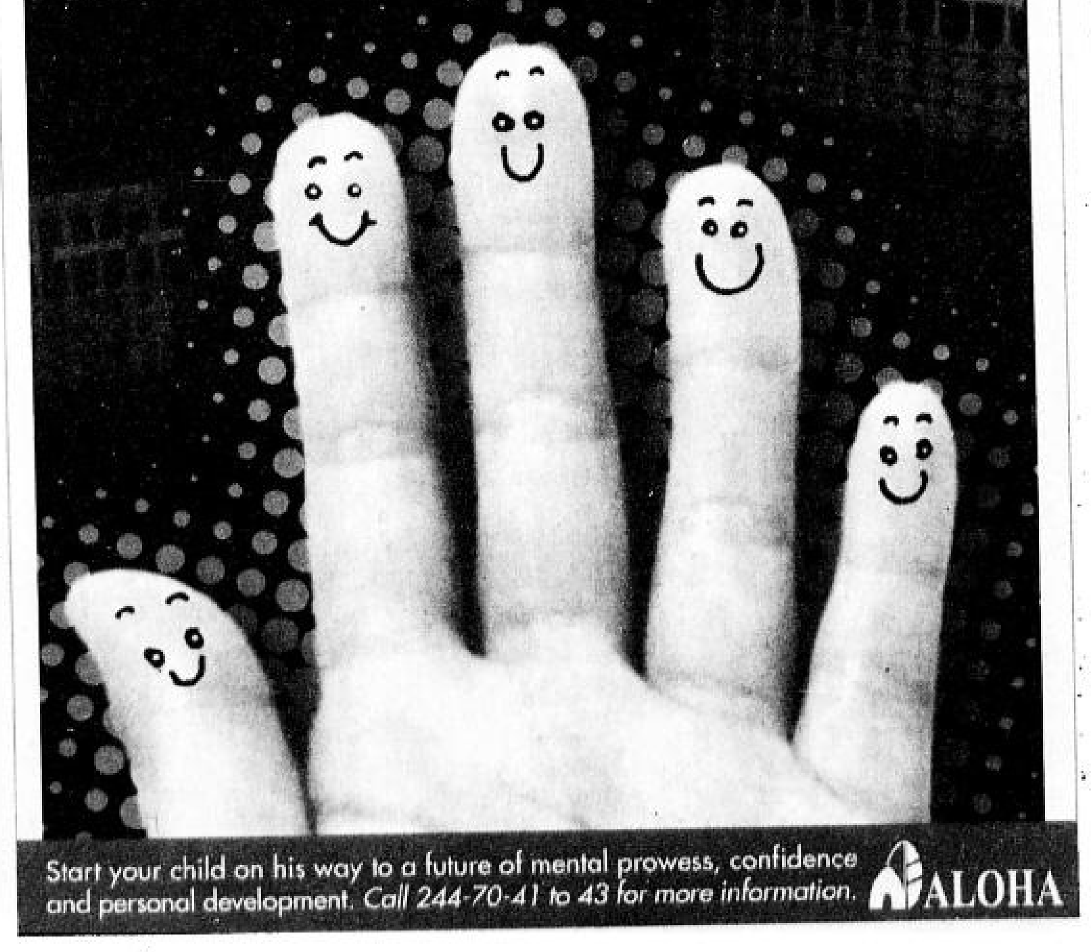
A.L.O.H.A. managing director for the Philippines Prof. Mer Elenzano thought this method was too good to be true until A.L.O.H.A. founder Dr. Loh invited him to Malaysia to see the method at work. There, he saw 6 and 7 year olds bombarded with mathematical equations one after the other. To make sure the answers were not scripted, Mr. Elenzano made his own sets of equations, which the children were able to answer with amazing speed and accuracy! From 14 centers in 1998, there are now over 50 centers in the Philippines. The company also has joint ventures with 15 schools, where Mental Math has become as popular as Taekwondo, football and basketball.
Any adult would certainly get intimidated to see how little children are able to solve mathematical equations without the aid of a calculator, pen or paper...and all in just a matter of seconds!

But aside from dramatically improving Math skills, children trained in A.L.O.H.A. also do well in other subjects because the method maximizes both logical and creative faculties of the brain. They likewise develop a very positive attitude towards learning in general, as they continue to boost their self-confidence.



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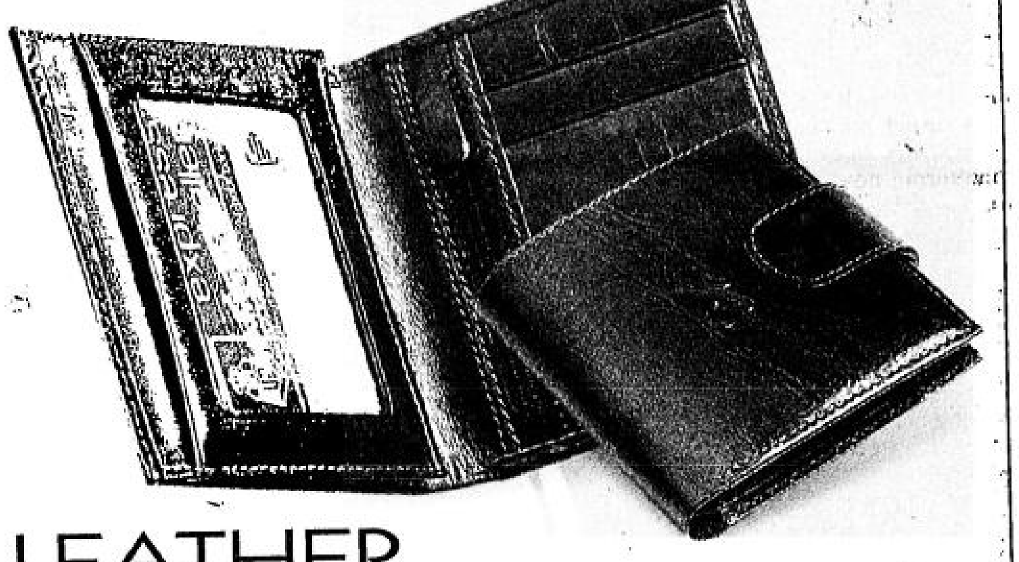

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Birthday tribute to James Dean on Cinemax

By Nestor U. Torre

JAMES Dean made only three movies in his life, but he was such a charismatic actor that his name and fame live on, more than 40 years after his death in 1955.

Charisma

Younger viewers who don't understand that kind of "posthumous longevity" will have a chance to see Dean's charisma for themselves next month, when the Cinemax movie channel features all three of the actor' starrers as a birthday tribute to the leading male screen idol of the 1950s (Dean was born on Feb. 8, 1931.)

The mini-retrospective starts at 2 p.m. on Feb. 3 with the screening of "East of Eden," where Dean co-starred with Julie Harris, James Caan and Raymond Massey. (Replays on Feb. 8 at 1:50 p.m., Feb. 13 at 4 p.m. and Feb. 26 at 11:45 a.m.).

Next comes "Rebel Without A Cause" at 2 p.m. on Feb. 10, co-starring Natalie Wood and Sal Mineo, directed by Nicolas Ray. (Replays at 9:45 a.m. on Feb. 14 and at 4 p.m. on Feb. 27).

Indelible image

With these two films, Dean etched an indelible image of troubled young people in the '50s—good of heart, but confused, tormented and unable to cope with the world around them—parents who didn't understand them, the strictures of conservative society, older people's distrust, etc.

Dean captured teenagers' frustration and anger so believably that he quickly became a cult figure. His tragic death in a car crash when he was only 24 years old further intensified his cult status, and millions of male teenagers all over the world dutifully copied his surly look and stance.

Phenomenal success

Indeed, the phenomenal success of Dean's teen characterizations in these two films spawned look-alikes in many countries. In the Philippines, the local James Dean was Lou Salvador Jr. a gifted actor in his own right.

DEAN. The 1950s' teen cult figure with Natalie Wood in "Rebel Without A Cause."

SALVADOR JR., local James Dean.

The James Dean mini-retrospective culminates with the screening of "Giant" at 2 p.m. on Feb. 17. The film, directed by the great George Stevens, was much more complex and ambitious than Dean's first two starrers. Dean, Elizabeth Taylor and Rock Hudson were all required to play their characters in the movie from youth to old age.

Replays

Tragically, Dean did not live to see "Giant," which was completed after his death. But his performance in it was solid, since he finished shooting his scenes one week before he died on Sept. 30, 1955. (Replays of "Giant" are at 10 a.m. on Feb. 21 and at 4:15 p.m. on Feb. 25)

More notes on the three films: "East of Eden" is hailed by one reviewer as "an overwhelmingly emotional adaptation of the James Steinbeck novel about two brothers' rivalry for the love of their father. It affects today's generation as much as those who witnessed Dean's starring debut in the 1950s. Jo Van Fleet (in her own film debut) won the Oscar as the boys' mother. Screenplay by Paul Osborn and direction by Elia Kazan."

Youthful alienation

"Rebel Without A Cause": "This portrait of youthful alienation spoke to a whole generation and remains wrenchingly powerful despite some dated elements. The yearning for self-esteem, the barrier to communication with parents, and the comfort found in friendship are all beautifully realized by director Nicolas Ray, screenwriter Stewart Stern and a fine cast (far too many of whom met early ends). This was Dean's seminal performance and an equally impressive showcase for young Mineo."

"Giant": "Near-legendary epic based on Edna Ferber's novel about two generations of Texans. It holds up beautifully to this day. Rock Hudson's best performance, close to Elizabeth Taylor's best, and Dean's last film. Stevens won Oscar for direction. Screenplay by Fred Guiol and Ivan Moffat."

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Martin wears his heart on his sleeve

By Mary Ann A. Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

THERE is a combination of lightness, ease and passion to Martin Nievera when he performs. He has the kind of presence that really makes you listen. During his "XV3 The Aftershock," Crossover Live tour in Davao, he sang unfamiliar tunes like "In the Stone," "Speechless" and "Sweet Smile" but still got good response from his audience.

Maybe because he's very transparent. You can see that he really loves to sing old love songs. He can evoke pain, loneliness, acceptance and happiness (depending on the song) because he's not afraid to wear his heart on his sleeve.

Martin took us back in time, (18 years ago) and did a Huey Lewis medley.

He did a quick costume change onstage towards the end of "Lovely Day" and asked a production assistant to sing the long note of "day" as he changed. He got a lot of laughs with his gimmick.

Then Jon Santos sauntered onstage as Sherap Espada. His impersonation was a riot. He did a funny English translation of Tagalog words, and vice-versa. He also shared his insights on his impeachment trial.

NIEVERA. A balladeer, first and foremost.

Martin can be an amusing comic and host but he's first and foremost a balladeer. Love songs like "Ikaw Ang Lahat sa Akin," "Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin," "Groovy Kind of Love," "Against All Odds," "One Last Cry," "Please Don't Ask Me," "Isn't She Lovely," "My Cherie Amour" and "You Are the Sunshine of My Life" have more meaning and vulnerability when Martin sings them.

"MacArthur's Park," "Our Father/I Believe" and "Magsimula Ka" have a haunting quality to them. There's a solemn and soulful reverence to Martin's voice as he performed those songs.

It was almost midnight but the audience still clamored for more. Martin readily obliged with "All Night Long," "She Bangs" and "Maniac."

His performance was already good but he made his second performance in Davao even better. Inspired by the SRO crowd, he added more familiar hits and his popular Broadway medley to his repertoire.

Celebrity artists

Ongoing until tomorrow at the Art Space at Glorietta 4 is the exhibit, "Tinda, Tindero, Tindera, Atbp."

Joining the exhibit are Reuben Laurente, a member of the vocal group The CompanY, and beauty queen Nina Ricci Alagao. Laurente's works are "Closing Time" and "Aling Nena's Merchandise," while Alagao's acrylic paintings are simply titled "Vendor 1 and 2."

He can evoke pain, loneliness, acceptance and happiness, depending on the song

New DGPI officers

Congratulations to the new officers of the Directors Guild of the Philippines for the year 2001. The guild vows to be an independence entity and to establish a critical yet productive relationship with the new government and other sectors of society.

It will protect the integrity of the filmmaking profession, uphold the welfare of film workers, and use the power and influence of the film medium to uplift the moral and intellectual standards of the Filipino audience.

The new DGPI officers:
President: Jose Javier Reyes
Vice President: Jeffrey Jeturian
Secretary: Mark Reyes
Treasurer: Rory Quintos
Chairman of the Board: Maryo J. de los Reyes

Boards Members: Mel Chionglo, Chito Roño, Don Escudero, Erik Matti, Marilou Diaz-Abaya, Joel Lamangan

Basic principles of healthy eating

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia

WE often try to acquire a lot of skills in life but we sometimes miss out on learning about the basics of healthy living. For example, everyone eats everyday, but are we eating the right way? More often than not, we may be eating improperly and causing our body great stress and damage. So, it is essential that we study the basic principles of healthy eating.

Book

In the book "The Healing Cuisine," Harish Johari provides simple guidelines for preparing and eating food in the healthiest way:

Things to do for healthy eating

1. Food should first be offered to the Supreme Being, then offered to guests, old people and children. Once the latter have been served and grace has been offered, the food can be enjoyed by the rest of the household.

2. Wearing loose, fresh garments increases the appetite and improves health.

No snacks

3. Eat only when hungry and after the previous meal has been digested. Generally, speaking, it is good to avoid eating until six hours after the previous meal. Avoid all snacks. This does not hold true for children; they need food every three hours, especially when they take part in physical activities.

4. Eating should be neither too fast nor too slow. Rushing will increase one's rate of respiration, while tarrying will make the food get cold.

5. Food should be thoroughly masticated so as to form a paste in the mouth. In this way, the high-quality digestive juices in the saliva are transferred to the food. This enhances the process of digestion since assimilation begins in the mouth, not the stomach.

6. Taking food at a regular time each day is helpful in regulating the body's chemicals.

Things not to do for healthy eating

1. Avoid eating before sunrise and after sunset.

2. Canned foods should be avoided or totally eliminated.

3. Avoid eating extremely greasy or dry foods.

Temperatures

4. Do not mix temperatures in the same meal; hot and cold foods should not be eaten at the same time. This is injurious to one's health and teeth.

5. Do not sleep within two hours of eating—this disturbs the digestive system and the mind. Do not sleep without first urinating.

6. Avoid tea or coffee for half an hour before or after meals.

7. Avoid anything requiring physical or mental concentration for two or three hours after meals. Such activity disturbs the digestive system and the mind.

8. Indulgence in sexual intercourse after eating is hazardous to one's health.

9. If I may add, indulgence in animal consumption is also dangerous to one's well-being. In fact, these guidelines are primarily based on the principle that we should avoid meat in our diet.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM JAN. 27 – FEB. 2

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	E! 31
SAT	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Star Drama Theater 9:30 Pinoy Exposed 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 Loren / "F" 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 SOF 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Road to Sydney 10:15 Fashion Watch 10:45 Olympic Primer 11:15 National Network News 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Princess Tenko 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Easy Money 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Eezy Dancing Non-Stop 10:00 Saturday Night Movies 12:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Brigada Siete 7:00 Kakabakaba 8:00 Kiss Muna 9:30 GMA's BEST *The Taking of Beverly Hills* 11:00 Master Showman Presents 12:00 GMA Network News 12:30 The 700 Club 1:00 Jesus Miracle Crusade	6:00 SaBayan 7:00 Conan 8:00 Martial Law 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 Business Class 11:30 Late Night Movie	5:30 H2K 7:00 Viva Premiere Night 9:00 Kagat sa Dilim 10:00 Gags Must Be Crazy 11:00 Night Lines	4:00 MBA 7:00 Two of a Kind 7:30 Seventh Heaven 8:30 Party of Five 9:30 Studio 23 *Mars Attacks* 12:00 MTV	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! Special *In Your Dreams with Cindy Margolis #3 & #4* 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Billionaire's Boy Club* 10:00 David Letterman Show 11:00 Wild On: *The Carribean* 12:00 Search Party
SUN	5:30 Knowledge Power 6:00 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Richard Loves Lucy 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:00 The Weekend News 11:30 Oh No, It's Johnny	6:00 Uncut 6:30 Ugat 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 Primetime Specials 10:00 National Network News 10:30 Sultada 11:00 Business & Leisure 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	5:00 Tarzan 6:00 Savage Dragon 6:30 Janperson 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Sunday Night Specials 11:00 Johnny Walker Powerplay 11:30 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:30 GMA Love Stories 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office *Jurassic Park* 11:30 Sunday Night Specials 12:00 GMA Network News 12:30 A Little Night of Music 1:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Hollywood Squares 6:00 Compañero y Compañera 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Kids Say the Darndest Things 8:30 Stark Raving Mad 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Sunday Report 11:30 Estrada Presidency	4:00 PBA 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 In His Steps 11:30 PBA Moments	6:00 Timecop 7:00 Dawson's Creek 8:00 The Nanny 8:30 Will and Grace 9:00 Veronica's Closet 9:30 Wasteland 10:30 Digital Tour 11:00 Sunday Night Movies	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 Talk Soup 7:00 60 Minutes 8:00 E! Special *Inside Pro Wrestling* 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Janis Joplin* 11:00 Celebrity Profile *Joey Lawrence* 12:00 Talk Soup 12:30 FYE! *Mexican Vacation*
MON	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis 9:00 Judy Ann Drama Special 10:30 Headlines 11:00 On Trial 11:30 Correspondents 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 Pilipino Box-Office 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Job Network/Fora Medica 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Macron 1 7:30 Freakazoid 8:00 By Request 9:00 Spy Games 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Beach Patrol 11:30 High Tide	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Trigun 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Pinoy Blockbusters *Lt. Madarang* 9:30 Tuwing Kapiling Ka 10:30 Front Page 11:00 I-Witness 12:00 The 700 Club 12:30 Midnight Prayer Helps	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Michael Hayes 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Honasan Reports	7:00 Blow By Blow 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Viva Proudly Presents 10:30 Super Bouts 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 PBA Moments	6:00 MTV Diyes 7:00 Greed 7:30 Making the Band 8:00 Time of Your Life 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Secret Lives of Men 12:00 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 E! Behind the Scenes *Nurse Betty* 8:30 E! Mysteries & Scandals *Judy Holiday* 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Rona Barrett* 10:00 David Letterman Show
TUE	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Oka Tokat 8:30 Regal Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 On Trial 11:30 Pipol 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:30 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 PBL 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Business Insight 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 G.I. Joe 7:30 Superman (Animated) 8:00 Hercules 9:00 Team Knight Rider 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Kontak 5 11:30 F/X The Series 12:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Monster Rancher 7:00 Virtua Fighter 7:30 Kool Ka Lang 9:00 Kasangga 10:30 Front Page 11:00 The Probe Team 11:30 700 Club 12:00 Pulpit of Christ	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Jay Sonza's Tapatan 11:30 Ngayon Na Pinoy	6:00 Rising Stars of Billiards 7:00 DMZ TV 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Now Showing 11:00 Ronda Trese	6:00 MTV Most Wanted 7:00 Greed 7:30 Popular 8:30 Beverly Hills 90210 9:30 Then Came You 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Secret Lives of Men 12:45 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 E! Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 E! Behind the Scenes *Almost Famous* 8:30 E! Mysteries & Scandals *Susan Cabot* 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Rick and Darva* 10:00 David Letterman Show
WED	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Pwedeng-Pwede 9:00 Katapat, Fred Lim 10:30 Headlines 11:00 On Trial 11:30 Isyu 101 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 HBO Boxing 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Tapatan Walang Atrasan 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Nature Trip 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Sabrina 7:30 Suddenly Susan 8:00 Frasier 8:30 Friends 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Musika Atbp. 11:30 Police Academy	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Trigun 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Beh Bote Nga 9:00 Codename: Verano 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Imbestigador 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Roswell 9:00 It's A Miracle 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Wrestling 11:30 Kasangga Mo'y Langit	5:00 PBA 10:00 Subic Bay 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 PBA Moments	7:00 Fantasy Island 9:00 Gameplan 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 The Explorer 12:45 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 E! Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 E! Behind the Scenes *Remember the Titans* 8:30 E! Mysteries & Scandals *Will Rogers* 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Linda Lovelace* 10:00 David Letterman Show
THU	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Home Along da Riles 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 10:30 Headlines 11:00 On Trial 11:30 Assignment 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 PBL 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Olympic Program 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Guinness World Records 8:00 Soldier of Fortune 9:00 Burning Zone 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Strangers 11:30 New York Undercover Year 2 12:00 The Big News	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Monster Rancher 7:00 Virtua Fighter 7:30 1 For 3 8:30 Viva Sinerama 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Debate with Mare at Pare 12:00 700 Club 12:30 Word of Hope	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Buffy, The Vampire Slayer 9:00 Felicity 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Chicago Hope 11:30 Police Hour	5:30 NBA Game of the Week 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Thursday Nights at the Movies 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 PBA Moments	6:00 MTV Non-Stop Hits 6:30 Be Seen @ MTV 7:00 Greed 7:30 Cineplex 23 9:30 Guide to Urban Living 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Travel Time	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 E! Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 E! Behind the Scenes 8:30 E! Mysteries & Scandals 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman Show
FRI	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Digimon 8:00 Young Hercules 8:30 Star Cinema Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 On Trial 11:30 Jullie 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo Pilipino 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Pulso ng Masa 10:15 National Network News 11:00 The Scene 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Sliders 8:00 The Big Night 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Trigun 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Pokemon 8:00 Fushigi Yuugi 8:30 Bubble Gang 10:00 What Went Wrong 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Emergency 12:00 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Malcolm in the Middle 8:30 Dharma and Greg 9:00 The Truth and Nothing But 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 TV Greats on Friday	5:00 The Color of Money 10:00 Kabayo, Karera, Karerista 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Last Fool Show	6:00 Monster By Mistake 6:30 Batman 7:00 Greed 7:30 Survivor 8:30 Snoops 9:30 Murphy Brown 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Citiline 12:00 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 E! Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 E! Behind the Scenes 8:30 E! Mysteries & Scandals 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman Show

DOMINGO. Plans to take voice lessons.

Getting to know Cogie Domingo

HI. I'm a fan of Cogie Domingo. I know that he's studying in Brent University but I want to know more facts about him. What's his real name, height, weight, hobbies and favorites? How many sisters and brothers does he have? I would also like to know the name of his band and what instruments he plays. I would be very grateful if you answer my letter and please tell me where I could write him. Thanks.—*Irish Dhea Rodriguez, Townsite, Pantukan, Compostela, Valley Province, 8809*

SHOW BIZ Q&A

Mary Ann A. Bautista

Real Name: Redmond Domingo

Nickname: Cogie

Age: 15 years old

Birthday: Aug. 15, 1985

Height: 5'10"

Weight: 130-140 pounds

Shoe Size: Size 11

High School: Colegio de San Agustin

Hobbies: Collecting caps and perfumes, playing billiards

Friends in the business: Vandolph Quizon and Boy II Quizon

Keeping fit

How he keeps fit: Toning through exercises and lifting weights at Slimmer's World

Band Name: Fair Ground

Instruments he plays: Drums and guitars

Favorite Food: fast food burgers and Japanese tempura

Favorite movies: "Snake Eyes" and "City of Angels"

Favorite Actors: Edu Manzano, Aga Muhlach, Christopher de Leon, Eddie Garcia, Nicolas Cage

Favorite Actress: Joyce Jimenez

Filmography: "Adok," "Sa Piling ng Mga Aswang," "Yakapin Natin ang Umaga," "Deathrow"

TV shows: "Cyberkada," "SOP," "Idol Ko Si Kap," "Click"

How would you describe yourself?

Makulit, mapilyo and moody. *Matakaw ako kapag puyat*. I can eat at any 24-hour fast food store when I'm tired.

How many sisters and brothers do you have?

I'm an only child, but I have four half-brothers—two on my mom's side and another two on my dad's side. I'm close to my twin brothers. I grew up with my mom but since she left for abroad, I'm living with my dad.

What was it like working with your favorite actor, Eddie Garcia?

I used to watch his movies and I never imagined that I would co-star with him. He gave me acting tips like how to make eye contact with your co-actor and how to project your voice. He made every moment in our scenes together memorable. *Madadala ka talaga sa mga mata ni* Tito Eddie. I look forward to working with him again.

Intense actress

I also enjoyed working with Ate Maricel (Soriano). She's a very intense actress and if I had a difficult time crying, I'd just stare at her eyes and automatically I'd be moved.

What was the most difficult scene you had to do in all your movies?

It would have to be my rape scene in the prison shower in "Deathrow." I didn't know how to react. I was tense before and during the take. It was demanding and I felt relieved when it was over.

What made it easy was that I read the script everyday before our shooting, *pinag-aralan ko talaga yung mga dapat na* nuances *ng* character. I didn't memorize the lines because I knew Direk Joel (Lamangan) would change some of them. I talked to inmates (at the Manila City Jail and National Penitentiary in Muntinlupa) to understand their sentiments.

Are you a bad boy in real life?

I've had my dark moments and I used those to understand my character in "Deathrow." I had no problem playing a bad boy.

Fun

It was fun to play someone like that *dahil alam kong hindi naman ako ganoon*. I have difficulty in crying though.

Which do you prefer, acting or being in a band?

I love both. I plan to take voice lessons so I can sing aside from playing instruments. I'm comfortable with the drums.

Who influenced you to be interested in music?

My brother has a band so I tried being in one. At first I played just for fun but I began to love every moment of it. *Natuto din akong mag*-compose *ng mga kanta*.

You have a hectic schedule, how do you find time to compose your songs?

I usually compose them when it's quiet. *Pag bagong gising ako, maganda mag*-compose *kasi* that's when I'm most creative. *Minsan sa banyo may dala akong papel at* ballpen. Composing is like writing a poem, only you put music to it.

What was your band's most memorable gig?

At Ozone disco because we played with the Eraserheads. I'm a big fan! I like them because their songs have meaning and humor.

What was the most disappointing thing that happened to you in show business?

I was rejected by the Star Circle of ABS-CBN three times because I was too small, I was only 5'4." I guess I was also too young.

You said you like Nicolas Cage, would you rather do action roles?

I like Nicolas Cage because he can be both villain and hero. But I'd rather play dramatic roles. *Gusto kong maging katulad ni* Christopher de Leon or Aga Muhlach.

Boots Anson Roa's greatest challenge

By Ruth Fernandez Yap

SHE'S one of Philippine cinema's most durable talents, yet she had been sidelined for many months as the head of the troubled television network, IBC-13, the biggest challenge she's ever tackled.

Mother

Like a mother who never gives up on her children, Boots Anson Roa accepted her new role. She took the challenge one day at a time. The first few months were the most trying. Step by step, she instituted reforms in programming and in employee-employer relations.

Being a media person, she knew that she needed a program committee, so she had one organized, and station-produced shows increased. Programs like Gary Lising's "Last Fool Show," Chin Chin Gutierrez's "Good Take," the youth-oriented "Yes to Kids" and the health show "Hapi Kung Healthy" were added to the weekly line-up.

IBC BOARD OF DIRECTORS. From left, Quirino Rosi Baterna, Antonio Merelos, Melquiades Robles, Renato Bello, Leonardo Belen, Tereso Javier and Jeorge Sarmiento; seated, Boots Anson Roa and Tina Loy.

Positive results

Positive results were indicated by renewed advertisers' trust and the opening of bidding for the network's privatization. Unfortunately, a restraining order was put in effect.

But the turn of events did not dampen Ms Roa's spirits. Instead, she channeled her attention to the continuing rehabilitation of the network's programming and the long-delayed building renovation. "We can afford it now," she beams. True enough, what seemed to be next to impossible years ago, was slowly realized during her stint.

She has had to decline many acting offers on TV and in the movies due to her responsibilities at IBC. The few that she has been able to accept have elicited admiration for her depth as a performer. But some quarters have criticized her for accepting jobs in competing networks.

Ms Roa is quick to explain that acting and hosting are things that she has done for many years, so she can't completely turn her back on them.

It is safe to say that IBC-13 has regained some lost ground with its new management. It has retrieved 10 percent of its primetime slots, paid most of its obligations and acquired its franchise.

After all is said and done, Ms Roa wants IBC employees and management to remember only one thing after her stay at their network—that when she leaves them, IBC is better off than it was before.

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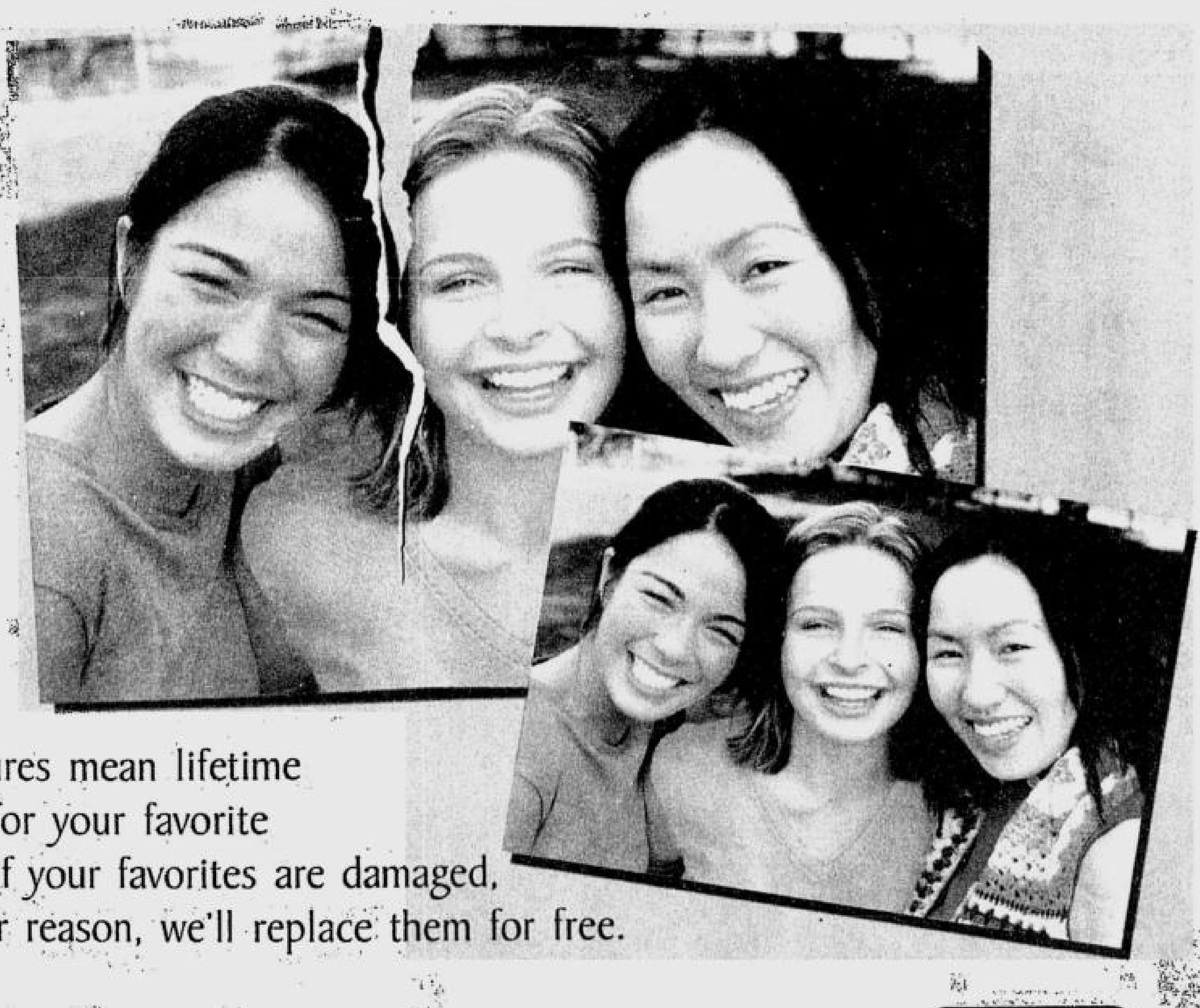

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Brad Pitt works hard for the money

PITT. Commands $20 million per picture.

LOS ANGELES—Movie heartthrob Brad Pitt calls his recent nuptials with actress Jennifer Aniston "The Adventure," according to an upcoming article in Details magazine in which he speaks for the first time on marriage, kids and more.

Pact

"We've made a pact … We'll see where it takes us," the 37-year-old star of the upcoming film "Snatch" said in an interview that hits the newsstands Jan. 26.

As far as having children, Pitt demurred. "I'm still a little selfish … I'm sure I'll **** them up somehow," he said.

Named last year as People magazine's "Sexiest Man," Pitt is working like crazy these days, reaping some $20 million per picture. He stars as an Irish gypsy boxer in Guy Ritchie's "Snatch," which opened last Friday, Jan. 19. He co-stars with Julia Roberts as a bungling mob patsy in "The Mexican," opening in March.

Currently, he's working with Robert Redford in "The Spy Game," a $90 million thriller directed by "Enemy of the State" director Tony Scott.

Acting, he said, is "my life," and while he

BRAD/D2

The actor speaks for the first time on marriage, kids and more

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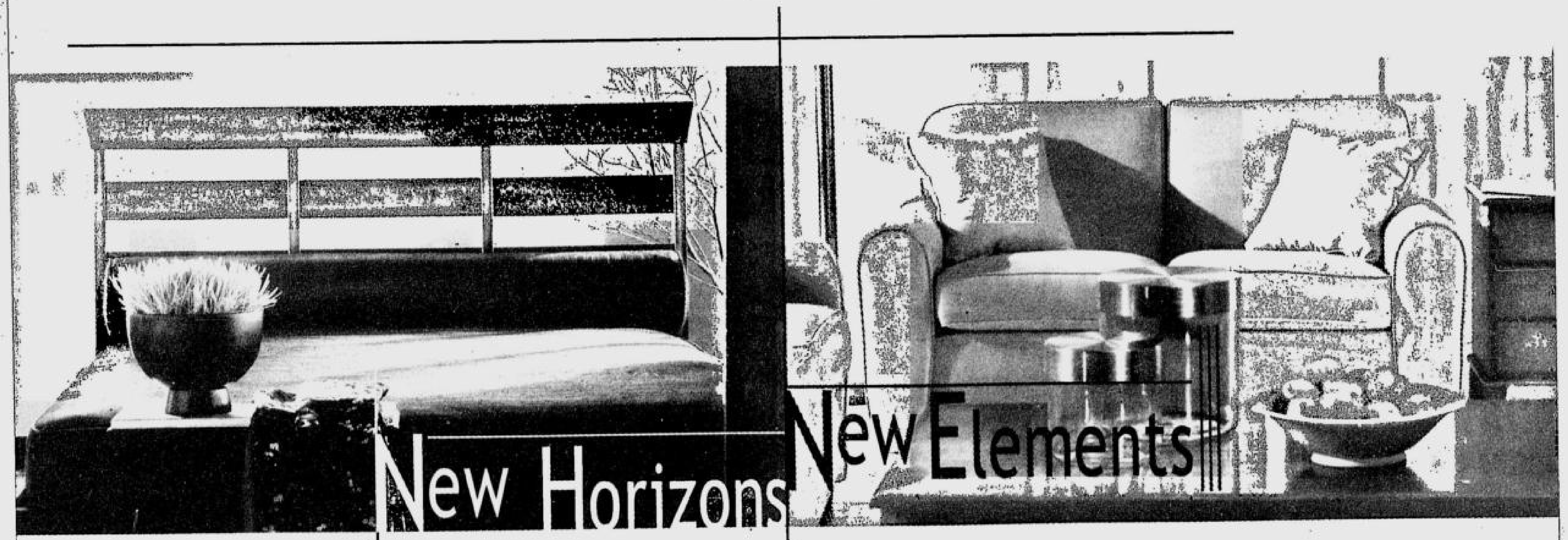

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LA SALLE COLISEUM, BACOLOD CITY
Saturday, February 3, 2001, 8:00 p.m.
PSC-PHILSPORTS FOOTBALL FIELD
(Formerly ULTRA)
Saturday, February 10, 2001, 8:00 p.m.
BURGOS GYM, ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY, BAGUIO CITY

'Gladiator,' 'Almost Famous' win best film honors at Golden Globes

By Anthony Breznican

BEVERLY HILLS, California—The Roman arena epic "Gladiator" was named best dramatic motion picture at the Golden Globes, while "Almost Famous," Cameron Crowe's fictionalized story about his experiences as a teenage rock journalist in the '70s, won best comedy film.

Julia Roberts won as best dramatic movie actress for "Erin Brockovich" and Tom Hanks won as best dramatic actor for "Cast Away."

Ancient battles

No one film dominated Sunday night's awards. "Gladiator," a bloody re-creation of ancient battles in Rome's Coliseum, came away with two, including one for music.

"Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," "Almost Famous" and "Traffic" also won two each. So if the Golden Globes hold true as an indicator of how the Academy Awards will go in March, the field is wide open.

"For a few anxious minutes I didn't think I'd get to take this baby home," "Gladiator" director Ridley Scott said after the final presentation.

Lesson

Roberts said of the real-life lawyer's aide whose battle over water pollution inspired her film: "Erin Brockovich, the real gal, is awesome and should be a lesson that we are all powerful individuals that can make a difference in the world."

Hanks, naming two other s[illegible] honored earlier in the Golden G[illegible] ceremony, said: "I watched Al P[illegible] movies and I wanted to be an acto[illegible] went hand-in-hand with listening to [illegible] Dylan songs."

George Clooney won best [illegible] in a comedy film for "O Brother, W[illegible] Art Thou?" and Renee Zellweger o[illegible] [illegible]se Betty" won best comedy film ac[illegible]

"I think when you list the nam[illegible] the actors in this category that you've got to figure I'm going to win this," Clooney deadpanned to the audience. Listing his competitors—Jim Carrey, John Cusack, Robert De Niro and Mel Gibson—he cracked: "What have they done?"

JULIA Roberts accepts the award for best actress in a motion picture for "Erin Brockovich."

Zellweger, who played a delusional soap opera fan in "Nurse Betty," almost missed her award because she was outside the auditorium in the restroom, a fate that befell Christine Lahti in 1998 when she won for "Chicago Hope."

Presenter Hugh Grant vamped until Zellweger walked from the back of the room, first in tears, then screaming for joy.

"A moment I'll never forget," she finally said. "A moment I almost didn't have."

Epic

Taiwan's "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," won the foreign-language film Globe and Ang Lee was named best director for the epic combining martial arts fury with the heroines' love stories.

"I really want to thank my wife for being a role model of the tough women I portray in the movie," Lee said.

Benicio Del Toro won best supporting film actor for his role in the drug war drama "Traffic" and Kate Hudson won supporting film actress for "Almost Famous."

"Well, I got lucky," Del Toro, who played a Mexican police officer, told the star-studded audience. "I'd like to congratulate all the nominees. I love their work. If they want a recount they can talk to my lawyer."

"Traffic" won the screenplay Globe for Stephen Gaghan, and "Gladiator" picked up the original score honor for Hans Zimmer and Lisa Gerrard. Dylan's "Things Have Changed" from "Wonder Boys" won original song.

NBC's "The West Wing" was named best television drama series and its star, Martin Sheen, won best actor in a TV drama for playing charismatic President Jeb Bartlett.

Divorced mother

Sela Ward, who plays a divorced mother re-entering the dating world, was named the top actress in a TV drama series for ABC's "Once and Again."

Robert Downey Jr., who faces another drug possession trial, won best TV supporting actor for his role as Calista Flockhart's boyfriend on "Ally McBeal."

"I would like to thank (series creator) David Kelley for creating such a great character. He said when he was writing it that it was like having a new toy to write for me, and I will do my best not to get sent back to the factory."

"Sex and the City" won best comedy series, and star Sarah Jessica Parker won for a second consecutive year as best actress in a comedy series.

"I'm ill-prepared again," Parker said. "It's just like high school. I am the most content employee ever. I love working for HBO."

"Frasier" star Kelsey Grammer won best actor in a comedy series.

"Usually I come here and eat a very casual two-minute meal and then sit and watch everybody else walk off with these," Grammer said.

Showtime's "Dirty Pictures" won the best miniseries or TV movie and Judi Dench, whose husband actor Michael Wiliams died this month, was the category's best actress for "Last of the Blonde Bombshells."

She last won a Golden Globe in 1998, drama film actress for "(Her Majesty) Mrs. Brown." Vanessa Redgrave won supporting actress for "If These Walls Could Talk 2." *AP*

2001, AN ENTERTAINMENT ODYSSEY

Sex puts the hex on the local movie industry and its products

By Nestor U. Torre

AFTER violence (see last week's 2001 piece), it's sex that has put the hex on the local movie industry and its products.

Carnality

Violence remains at the top of the first list because it has the most negative and dangerous potential effects, but sex ranks second because it promotes an "addiction" to carnality for its own sake, treating people as sex objects, amorality, the sexual use and abuse of others for pleasure's sake, infringement on women's and minors' rights, etc.

Sexy movies do all *that*? Yes—although they may initially appear to be harmless to adults, and even liberating. Why this negative view of most sexy films, then? Because they create a climate of opportunism, abuse and prurience that subverts most of the liberalizing benefits adult viewers can derive from them.

Teapot tempests

At first, the freedom to make graphically sexy movies seems to be one of the rights that anti-censorship proponents would want to uphold. Indeed, many of the teapot tempests over censorship in this country through the years have been over the cutting or X-ing of sexy films.

Since sex is attention-calling, artistic freedom in cinema has always had an erotica-based component. Censor sex, the logic goes, and you allow the self-appointed moral guardians in our midst to censor ideas as well, and that's where the real danger lies.

We ourselves have been involved in anti-censorship struggles for decades, and we have defended some sexy movies from the censors' wrathful scissors.

Self-serving ends

Of late, however, we've noticed that, instead of using the new sexual freedom in cinema for more purposive goals, quite a number of our filmmakers have been exploiting it for their own self-serving ends. And *this* is what has put the hex on our films.

How does this exploitation manifest itself? All too obviously: A producer wants to spend only a little but make a lot of money, so he bankrolls the production of a very sexy film but coats it with a veneer of artistic "substance."

When the film gets into trouble with the classifiers, the producer and his filmmakers protest to high heavens, claiming infringement on artistic freedom.

This makes the movie controversial, and moviegoers naturally want to view it at all costs, to see what all the fuss is about.

Hot property

A couple more X-es, and the movie is now a really hot property. The producer or filmmaker swears that he won't cut a single frame out of his movie just so it can get the classifiers' nod, and he is lauded for his fortitude.

Then the movie is finally approved for showing and as expected, turns out to be a huge hit. Only later do we hear from the movie grapevine that the "courageous" producer or filmmaker *had* in fact trimmed his movie to get his production's classification changed from X to R.

Some producers and directors have been making a mint and furthering their careers through acts of artistic opportunism like this.

Excuse

Among their victims have been the genuine fighters for artistic freedom, whose interest really isn't in showing naked bodies and "pumping" scenes, but making sure that the censorship of sex won't be used as an excuse for the censorship of ideas, which would be the real tragedy.

But authentic fighters for artistic freedom should realize that they are often being used by the very film "artists" they so fiercely defend.

Yes, sexy movies can show more these days, but has any film artist used the greater freedom enjoyed today to propound controversial *ideas* on the big screen that, in less enlightened times, would have gotten an X?

Noises

Nope—because that hasn't been their real intention all along. They've been making noises about it, but that's about it. They just want to have fun—and a lot of money, to boot.

Meanwhile, lurid sex continues to put the hex on our movies, alienating the more responsible members of society, and most filmmakers still wouldn't touch a controversial idea with a 10-foot pole! So much for genuine artistic courage and enlightenment…

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Screenwriters contribute to MMFF's box-office success

By Ramon Rey E. Bayron

WITH the huge commercial and critical success of the recent Metro Filmfest, which opened to the tune of P31 million, doomsayers are resetting the date of the local film industry's supposed "demise."

Credit

But who gets the credit for saving Filipino movies this time? Immediate mention is sure to be made of our talented directors, six of whom provided above-average quality entries. But citing their contributions alone would be telling only half the story.

Then, it must be the stars? Well, while MMFF 2000 did boast of respected names, like the great Dolphy, the durable Eddie Garcia, and action prince Rudy Fernandez, curiously however, theirs are not the films that have lorded it over the box office rather one that only had an all-male dance group as leads, closely followed by a religious film headed by a 1950s movie queen, the combination of which (especially the latter) defies all known logic in Philippine movie marketing.

DEL MUNDO. Sensitive handling of "Markova."

So, what are we missing? What is the third factor that helped in wooing the paying audience back to Filipino films?

Note that a critical element in ensuring a movie's box-office success is the effective generation of the all important "I," as in *interest*, in the public's mind. The MMFF achieved just that by offering fresh concepts, unique stories and daring themes and treatments, all within the turf of the oft-ignored screenwriters.

Anonymous

Unfortunately, to the public, most of writers are practically anonymous, since they don't even merit a credit on the movie's print ads and were hardly mentioned by the winners during the filmfest's awards ceremonies (as in most other awards nights).

So, to correct that unfair oversight and finally give due acknowledgement to this other set of box office stars, we cite Clodualdo Del Mundo Jr., for his sensitive handling of the daring concept of gay men turned comfort women during WWII.

Rather than exploit his subject matter, Del Mundo proved his utmost professionalism by staying in focus, the end result being a disarming film biography that provided ace comedian Dolphy some of his finest moments on screen, long missed by the public.

The film 'Markova: Comfort Gay' opened with a "comfortable" P3 million gross. Moreover, while it may not have topped the box office locally, this film is one of the two that will most likely find markets abroad, the other being "Deathrow," written by Ricardo Lee and Manny Palo.

The duo answers GMA's self-imposed challenge of producing a film in the league of 'Jose Rizal' and 'Muro Ami,' minus the staggering budget, with the shocking premise of a kid in the company of deathrow criminals.

Lee has mastered the art of free structure in storytelling, as seen in the script's utilization of various characters with different angsts and conflicts that served to enrich the main plot of the minor illegally sentenced to die via lethal injection.

Powerful message

This is done without confusing the audience but instead bringing home a solid and powerful message about the need for judicial and social reforms in the country.

Lee and Palo were also well advised in not turning the already dark material into an exercise of wallowing in depression by opting for a "Hollywoodish" hopeful ending.

The public's verdict for "Deathrow" is a "life saving" P3 million + 1st day gross. The film is being readied for this year's Berlin Film festival.

Surprising to some, depending on which side of the fence you're in, is the P5 million 1st day gross of 'The Ping Lacson Story: Supercop.' Willy Laconsay, the film's scriptwriter is both aided and limited by his subject, PNP chief Panfilo Lacson. To Mr. Laconsay's credit, his screenplay did show some elements of resistance to becoming a complete propaganda material.

(To be concluded)

Brad Pitt works hard . . .

(From page D1)

phones home often, he admitted that juggling film roles hasn't left much time for his bride, whom he affectionately calls "Golden."

"Distance is a beast," he said.

Determined to keep the press at bay during their July wedding, the couple tried to ban the airspace around the Malibu beach ceremony but he said the Federal Aviation Administration refused.

Privacy

"Jen and I both wanted privacy but we also wanted it to be outside," Pitt said. "Jen finally said, 'Look, if they get the picture, they get it. Don't forget what the day was about.' She was right," he said.

Upon taking their vows, he said a magical moment happened. "The press completely backed off. It shocked the hell out of me. I was like, 'I love humanity!'" he said. The wedding, he added, "was one of the coolest things I have ever been to."

His former girlfriend Gwyneth Paltrow is reportedly heartbroken over the Pitt-Aniston union but for Pitt that's in the past. He mentions her name only once in the interview, referring to her as "Paltrow."

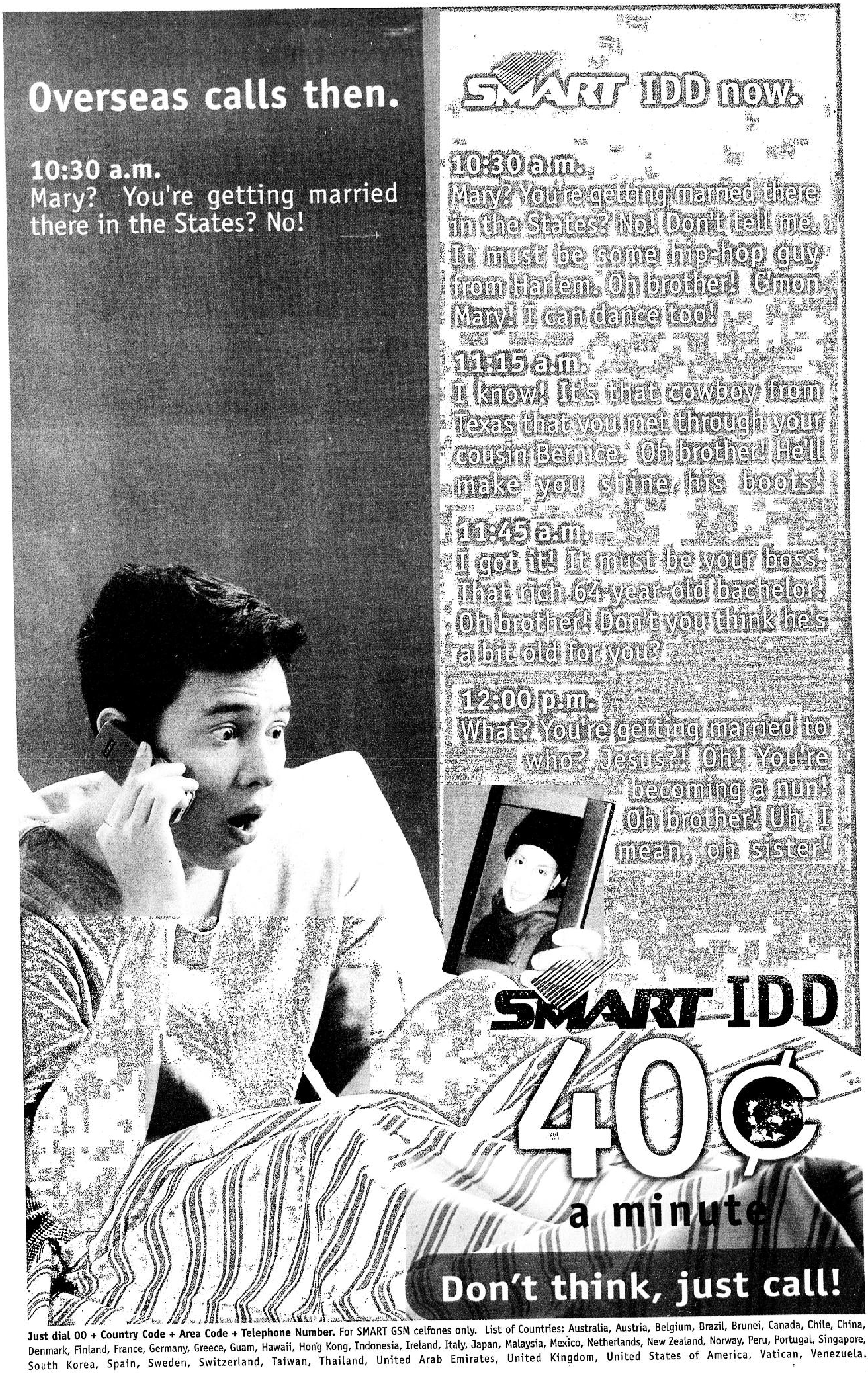
In his spare time he and Aniston are restoring a traditional Craftsman style house in the Hollywood Hills. He tells Details of his love of architecture and penchant for design, particularly the Arts and Crafts style of Frank Lloyd Wright and Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

Photos

In fact, last summer he contributed photos to a coffee-table book on the Greene brothers, pioneers of California's bungalow style.

"I'd like to design something like a city," he said, "or a museum. I want to do something hands on rather than just play golf which is the sport of the religious right."

In retirement, Pitt joked, "I'm gonna design my own fleet of trailer." Changing his mind, he said, "No! I'm gonna record an album like Jennifer Lopez. It'll be an acoustic version of K.C. and the Sunshine Band. Then maybe I'll design a line of clothes like Puff Daddy, but all in synthetic fur." *Reuters*



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11:15 a.m.
I know! It's that cowboy from Texas that you met through your cousin Bernice. Oh brother! He'll make you shine his boots!

11:45 a.m.
I got it! It must be your boss. That rich 64 year-old bachelor! Oh brother! Don't you think he's a bit old for you?

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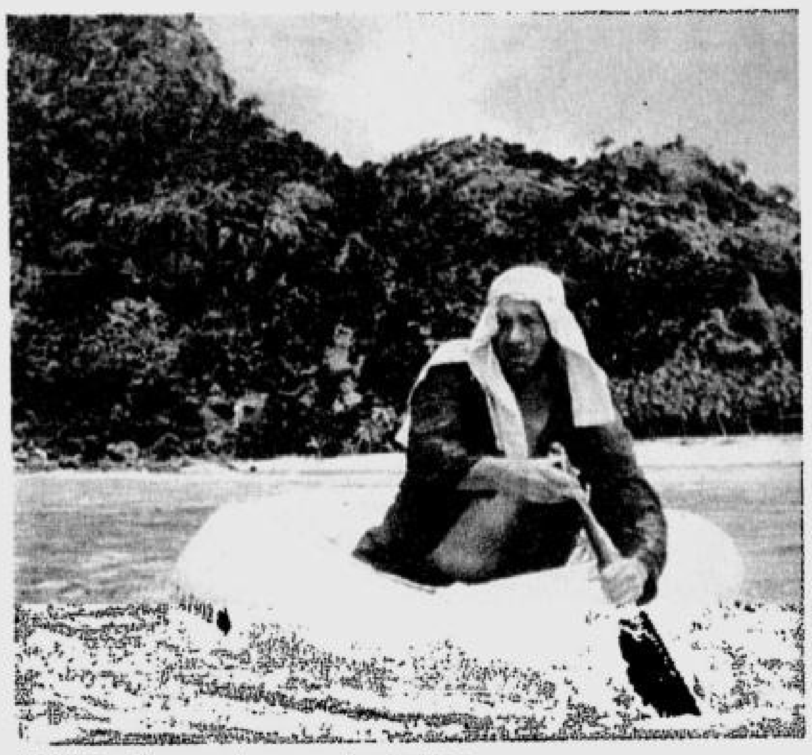
Tom Hanks on fame, Fiji and surviving his toughest role yet



HANKS. Plays a plane crash survivor.

By H.W. Fowler

TOM Hanks appeared to have everything a movie star could ask for—popularity, matching Oscars and box-office success. Playing a stranded plane crash survivor in "Cast Away" was a great opportunity, and he knew it.

It was also a chance to go back to work with "Forrest Gump" director Robert Zemeckis—only this time in a storytelling mode as simple as their earlier blockbuster was elaborate.

Important

And there was something about "Cast Away's" story that the 44-year-old superstar thought was important. Something about what life could be like without all the modern world's endless distractions—the same distractions Hanks has made quite a nice living for himself creating. Q & A:

Are your "Cast Away" people worried about your movie in the light of "Survivor's" success?

Not an iota. Not a speck. I didn't see any "Survivor" because it started when I was over in Europe. I might have seen one of those Entertainment Tonight things about it. They showed a few minutes of the show, and it was this incredibly cheesy set with torches—it looked like the lobby of the Enchanted Tiki Room at Disneyland.

Names

And there was some guy pulling names out of a coconut or something, and I said, "This is the thing that has made the American mass media stop in their tracks? This *cheese* fest?" [Laughter] So I came late to the game and I didn't quite get it.

So why, when you can tell just about any story you want at this point, is "Cast Away" the one you want to tell? Is there something grand behind it?

First, the idea that a guy like me can get any movie made—that's only true to a certain degree, and there's also no guarantee that anything good is going to come of it.

The only thing grand behind it really was that Bob [Zemeckis] said, "You know what we can do? Shoot the first half of the movie, take a year off so you really do change the way you look, and then come back and do the last part. They'll think we're nuts, but we can actually do it that way."

And as soon as Fox agreed, they said, "You're not really going to do it like *this*, are you?" "Well, you know, we kind of are." So there was something that was really a bit bodacious.

When you prepared psychologically for what it felt like to lose all that weight, after piling it on for the movie's first scenes?

Yes, I was really looking forward to it. I was so both naturally and artificially inflated; it's fun for a while, but then it truly does affect you physiologically. I was probably 55 pounds heavier than I am right now. I mean, Bob said, "I want you to enjoy those holidays now." [Laughter] He really wanted me to get truly as bulked up as I could.

How did you go about losing 55 pounds?

Well, it's a rigorous workout. There are no secrets to it. I worked with the same person on "Philadelphia," he did it all with me, took all the measurements ... got all the blood work taken.

Workout

You start off burning 400 or 500 calories a workout and you work up to 1,000 and then 1,400. Never took more than an hour and a half, six days a week. And you watch what you eat.

In "Apollo 13" and "Saving Private Ryan," you've played men who did extraordinary things. Is it hard to find a contemporary equivalent? Is "Cast Away" the kind of story you have to tell in order to put someone our age through an experience anything like what those other two guys went through?

I think that's true. There's no other reality, too. It really has to be something quite fantastic in order for it to register as a movie. It's got to be accurate and authentic and all that, but it also has to be oddly cooler than cool. And am I wrong, or is there really a dearth of contemporary stories that are being told today?

Macro focus

One of the coolest movies, I thought, was "The Insider," which was religiously contemporary. But it's really hard to find contemporary stories that can withstand the macro focus of being put up on the big screen.

I mean, even on a movie like "You've Got Mail," which is Nora Ephron at her cosmopolitan best, we were under the gun to get that out before the whole concept of e-mail disappeared on us.

Lorli Villanueva spreads her artistic wings

By Bibsy M. Carballo

AFTER years of shuttling back and forth between the Philippines to the USA, Lorli Villanueva believes that she has finally found her turf.

Sitcoms

In town for a brief visit during the holidays to visit her two daughters Donna and Girlie, Lorli who is best remembered for her regular TV sitcoms "Daddy, Daddy Ko" with the Reycards, "No Problem" with the late Bert Tawa Marcelo, and the soap "del Tierro" with Tirso Cruz III and Michael de Mesa, is back to teaching, for which she trained as a Fullbright-Hayes scholar, and directing, which has become her new vocation.

Now based in Manhattan for the past year with daughters Princess and Denden, Lorli teaches high school at the De la Salle Academy, where she handles film and English literature. The film studies get her students involved in actual production with Public Access TV.

She has also established a community-based theater in the school, a venture that gives her an immense sense of accomplishment.

Her first play, which she produced and directed with a grant she acquired from the city government, was "Inherit the Wind." She involved the immediate community, from which she culled the actresses, her school being an all-boys academy.

Next venture

Her next venture is "Twelve Angry Men," which she will present as Asian theater combined with martial arts when she returns to work this month.

"I have gotten such positive response from the community, with a lot of people willing to get involved in the production," she enthuses. "The Filipino is known to be a consummate artist," she says, "but sadly, although Lea Salonga has opened doors, we still have to have more agents interested in Filipino artists, and more training needed in keeping up with American standards."

LORLI (right) with her eldest daughter Princess.

As an actress herself, Lorli won as best supporting actress in the Metro Manila filmfest(for "Lupang Hinirang"). Her last role was in Lav Diaz' "Kriminal sa Baryo Concepcion," and she recently found herself doing a support role in Laurice Guillen's new film, "American Adobo," where she played a *mahjongera*. Also in the film are other US-based actors Susan Valdes, Jojo Gonzales (son of writer Marina Feleo Gonzales), and Fil-Am Luis Pedron.

The movie, directed by Guillen in New York with Christopher de Leon, Dina Bonnevie, Ricky Davao, and Sandy Andolong, will be released sometime April here in Manila.

Pleasant experience

"It was such a pleasant experience working with Filipinos once again," Lorli recalls. And the best offshoot of that five-day shoot, she says, was her becoming eligible as a SAG (US Screen Actors Guild) member, which puts her in a directory of actors who can work on mainstream movie projects in the States.

Immediately, Lorli got a call to work on a Michael Douglas film "Don't Say a Word," as part of the crowd in a sequence shot in Chinatown. The two-day shoot paid her $108 an hour, and she shot for a total of 16 hours.

She says she was just fortunate that the call came for a weekend schedule when she was off from work in school, but recalls several casting calls for commercials that she had to turn down because they conflicted with her teaching schedule.

Casting call

Lorli believes that this is the age of the Asian in films, and that there will be so many opportunities to work in movies, television, and commercials that she may just have to give up her teaching job to join the ranks of actors waiting around for a casting call.

"There is a lot of awareness now of Asia in the States. Chinese films have become blockbusters in Hollywood; this year's Ms America is a Fil-American, and we are the biggest growing ethnic community in the US," continues Lorli.

We ask her if this is not foolhardly, since she already has a secure job which she enjoys. She replies that she plans to put up a company that would service Asian needs in theater and entertainment in between her acting assignments. Currently, she is getting together some Fil-Am investors to produce a play she plans to direct off-Broadway, at the La Mama Theater.

Documentaries

While hoping that she can continue acting, Lorli is determined to develop her skills in directing, to spread her wings, so to speak. Her directorial experience in the Philippines prior to relocating to the US has been with corporate documentaries, a stint directing for the soap "Flordeluna," and the telemovie "Bonifacio," funded by Caloocan Mayor Rey Malonzo, who played the national hero with Ina Raymundo as his wife, Gregoria de Jesus.

"Bonifacio" remains unreleased to this day, and Lorli who has again touched base with Malonzo, reports that the mayor is determined to expand the Betacam film to big-screen proportions. "*Sayang*, I could have gotten the film included in festivals in the States," says Lorli, who further shares that reactions from those who have seen the Betacam subtitled version have been encouraging.

To date, the movie has been screened in Washington DC as a fund-raiser for World War II veterans, and at a private showing in Jersey City, and Lorli is hopeful that Channel 13, the ethnic channel, will soon schedule a screening.

Lorli sees herself spending more time in the US to pursue her dreams, although she has been constantly returning home since "I really love it here. But I know that, had I stayed, I would only have accumulated a lot of debts and would never have seen my children through college."

Eventually, however, with her kids on their own, Lorli sees herself pursuing the new challenge of directing and perhaps getting into the writing of fiction.

Culture in the cyber age

By Nestor U. Torre

LATE last year, I went to Kyongju, South Korea, to serve as a Philippine delegate to the Asia-Europe Forum on Culture in the Cyber Age.

Uses of new media

Thanks to the National Commission for Culture and the Arts for making it possible for us to learn a lot about the uses of the new media to promote cultural interaction at present and in the future. I am eager to share what we learned:

In his opening address, Governor Eui-Geun Lee, Chairman of the Kyongju World Culture Expo 2000 Organizing Committee, observed, "The 21st century will be a Century of Culture, an Age of Information… I am expecting that the wisdom and keen insight of outstanding scholars in this place will ignite brightly as a guiding torch for mankind. The beautiful and dynamic cultures of our global communities can bloom, and people and their cultures, science and technologies can be harmonized together."

More spontaneous exchange

For his part, Prof. Tommy Koh, outgoing Executive Director of the Asia-Europe Foundation, said, "We are fully convinced that the Internet, by overcoming time and distance, can add value to Asia-Europe relations by allowing people to be closer and by making their exchange more spontaneous and continuous."

In the pursuit of these objectives, the delegates from many European and Asian countries worked hard to share their expertise by way of detailed discussions. To provide springboards for further workshop sessions, a number of experts were asked to deliver papers on different aspects of the cyberculture field.

Digital divide

French writer Guy Sorman led off by focusing on the "digital divide," which he described as "the mirror of the dominant vision of the world, widely shared by the present elite in politics, economics and international organizations."

Unfortunately, at the other end of the "divide" are the underdeveloped and developing nations, many of which cannot afford the technological investment needed to catch up with the progress being made in cyberspace by the leading nations of the world.

Disadvantage

Even when they do acquire the technology, the developing nations are still at a disadvantage because they pretty much have to make use of the software created by the dominant nations.

So, the cultural transfer effected by the new media is generally one-way, and the developing nations have a hard time getting their own cultural inputs felt internationally.

In a sense, this is the modern era's corollary to the colonization of old—only this time, the colonizers are not sailing in galleons, but on state-of-the-art cyber technology.

Cultural 'colonies'

But the problem remains the same: how the more developed countries can be prevented from swamping the smaller nations, or else they will end up as mere cultural "colonies" of the west.

The other point is that the new media give developing countries the unique option of getting their cultures to "colonize" the west, in turn. But this can happen only if the smaller countries know how to use cyber culture to their own advantage.

Ideal sponsor

Since its membership includes both developed and developing countries, the Asia-Europe Forum was the ideal sponsor for the conference on Culture in the Cyber Age.

The delegates from Europe and Asia worked hard to communicate across their own "digital divide," and at the end of the conference, we realized that the task was harder than it initially seemed.

But this realization further challenged us to keep trying to use the new media to effect a more balanced sharing of cultural inputs from east to west, and back again. ***(To be continued)***

Daily TV grind is production manager's life

By Royce Ervas Ambrocio

WE all love a good TV program, be it a soap opera, a musical variety program, a drama series, a one-hour special or a celebrity talk show.

Success

The success of any television show is measured in part by the contributions of the people behind it—the director if the shots are great, the writer if the dialogue is fluid, the cinematographer if the lighting is perfect, the production designer if the set is tasteful and, of course, the producer if the overall production value is impressive.

But whoever thought of including in that roster the one person who welds these diverse and conflicting creative forces together? That person is the production manager.

What exactly *is* a production manager or PM?

To find out, I went to the set of one of the most successful TV drama series, "Pira-Pirasong Pangarap." Aired on GMA 7 Mondays to Fridays every 2 p.m. and hosted by Manay Gina de Venecia, this oftentimes tearjerking but always interesting drama series has enjoyed both critical and commercial success since its creation in 1995. Now on its fifth year, "Pira-Pirasong Pangarap" shows no signs of letting up.

The set is inside the premises of the old Vera Perez mansion in San Juan, Mandaluyong. The OB van is parked conspicuously at the backyard and the trail of cables and wires leads me to a spacious room converted into a living room and dining room. The two cameras and the lights are already propped up and the crew is into some last-minute fixing.

Orders

Amid this busy atmosphere is a busier person walking to and fro, making phone calls and shouting orders. Not the director, who is busy rehearsing the actors. Not the producer, who rarely visits the set. And definitely not the writer, who is cooped up somewhere, anxiously biting toenails.

She's the production manager.

I walk up to her. Already aware of my purpose, she greets me amiably. Rosemarie Parado Conde is friendly and unassuming.

"*Tamang-tama ang dating mo!*" she enthuses. "*Hindi pa nagte*-take *si Direk* Soxie. *Dito tayo sa* sofa *para masarap ang usapan*."

As we sit on the sofa, I ask her what is the usual call time at the set. She says that the production staff arrives at 8 a.m., and the actors an hour later. But she adds that the generator and OB van arrive earlier than the production staff for smoother traffic during the set-up.

It's during shoots at out-of-town locations that call time is placed at 5 a.m. or even as early as 4 a.m. Rose also says that she strives to arrive ahead of most of the members of the production staff, but only after making those important phone calls.

On the road

"*Trabaho ng* production manager *na siguruhin na wala nang mga problema o aberya sa iba't-ibang aspeto ng produksyon bago ang* actual shooting." she emphasizes. "*Kung meron man, dapat maayos agad. Kaya importante na maaga pa lang at nasa bahay ka pa ay tinatawagan mo na ang* staff. Once you're on the road, *mahirap na magtatawag*."

Before we go any further, I ask her for the job description of a production manager.

"He or she is in charge of the technical aspect of production, the coordinator of different departments like the OB van, the production design, the postprod or editing, *at pati na ang* catering service," she explains.

Then I remember seeing on the end credits of a TV show, the position of "production unit manager," and so I ask her what the difference is. She replies that the position is common in big production companies so complex that they need a separate manager for each of the many OB vans they use.

On a smaller-scale production, the production manager takes over that job and assigns only a technical head for the OB van. By the way, in layman's terms, the OB van is some kind of a mobile TV studio where everything that the camera shoots is recorded.

Directing me back to my first question, Rose adds that the job of the production manager is truly challenging. She can't speak for the other production outfits, but in her case, she is also tasked to make sure that the script is ready for shooting, the actors and talents are attended to, and that everything is at the director's disposal.

Legwork

"*Lahat ng 'yan ay inaayos namin ni* Ate Joan (Joan Bañaga Cabalda). I answer to her since she is the executive producer. Basically, I do the legwork and follow-ups during the pre-production stage."

I learn that in "Pira-Piraso," as in all TV productions, time and money are of utmost importance and the few seconds and pesos they can save are treasured. Rose admits that during the first years of the show, they used to hold pre-production meetings but, as experience and common sense taught them, the hour they spend on the table can be used for the actual errands they have to do afterwards.

"*Kung kailangang mag-usap, sa* cellphone *na lang*," she says.

She says that her job as PM of "Pira-Pirasong Pangarap" is four-fold. First is her relationship with the executive producer who oversees the entire production process. After fleshing out concerns related to the actors, script, director ("Pira-Piraso" showcases various directors) and other budgetary concerns, the production manager makes sure that everything is carried out as planned by the EP.

Talent coordinator

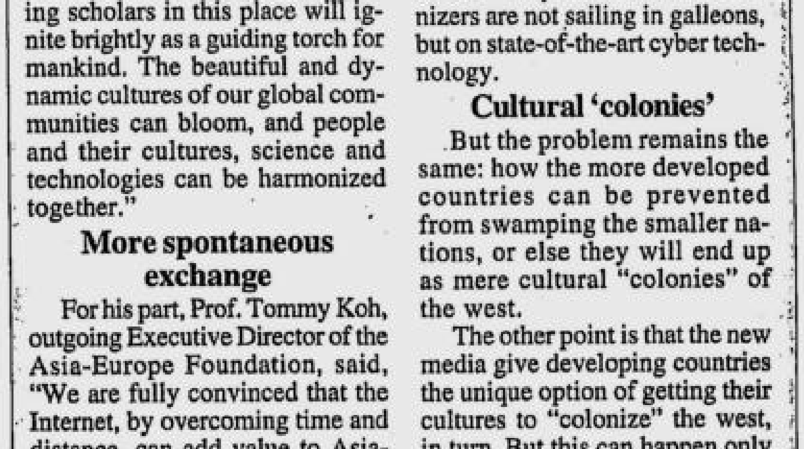
Second is her relationship with the talent coordinator. After the talent coordinator has come up with the lineup of actors, it has to be referred to her, to maximize the budget allocated for the actors' talent fees. The lead actors, though, are preselected by the EP, while the supporting and bit players are left to the talent coordinator.

Third is her relationship with the production designer, who is responsible for the construction of the set, whether it's a house, a hospital or an office. The production designer already has an idea of the set but is still constantly reminded that this has to be worked out within certain budgetary limitations.

Fourth is her relationship with the assistant director or AD. She works closely with the AD who is tasked with the "script breakdown." A script is a logical sequence of scenes making up the story.

For shooting convenience, scenes are rearranged into groups that fall under different locations. This is vital if the PM doesn't want to waste money on unnecessary shuttling back and forth between locations.

She reminds me though there are no clear dividing lines between these people. "*Lahat 'yan ay konektado*." ***(To be concluded)***



"EVERYMAN"
The RCF Theater Guild presents Isagani Cruz' Filipino translation and adaptation of Raymond William's stage play "Everyman." The musical-dance-drama play will be presented at the UP Theater, Diliman, on Jan. 27 at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. and at St. Cecilia's Hall, St. Scholastica's College on Feb. 10 at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Tickets are available at the entrace of the theater. Actors include Rhona Reyes, Candy Cervo, Justin Moreno, Allan Alegre, and Lawrence Roxas. Directed by Eric Libramonte. Producers are Hazel Domingo and Ronnie Fedelino.

Meg Ryan goes against her standard screen persona

MEG Ryan exhibits versatility and natural charm in any role she plays, which has made her a favorite with audiences around the world.

Ranging from comedy to drama, Ryan has appeared in a wide variety of feature films, including "Sleepless in Seattle," "Courage Under Fire," "When a Man Loves a Woman," "City of Angels" and "You've Got Mail." But she's best known for her romantic-comedy performances.

Kidnapped by rebels

Now, Meg Ryan stars in the gripping romantic-thriller "Proof of Life" as the wife of an American engineer (David Morse) kidnapped by rebels in Latin America.

Director Taylor Hackford says, "I have known Meg for a long time and thought she would be a wonderful choice for this film. Most people think that Meg's giddy, comedic film character is who she really is. In reality, she's serious, intelligent and complex."

Meg Ryan is all praises for the film's script. "I had an absolute fascination because I had no idea that kidnapping was such a big business, or that there was any such thing as kidnap insurance. It was all brand new information that I found really captivating."

Co-star

The actress talks more about "Proof of Life" and working with her co-star Russell Crowe in this interview:

Why this role? What drew you to it?

Really a number of things. First of all, I thought the movie to me is how crisis can in an ironic way enrich your life and help you grow. All of the characters start out with their lives really deadened.

In my character's case, she just lost a baby, her marriage is in a difficult place, she's sort of suffering before the movie even starts and then this horrible thing happens when her husband is kidnapped.

So, where does she draw strength and how does she get through that? I thought the challenge of playing that would be really interesting.

Unlike most of the roles you have taken, was that another thing that was appealing about it, being able to flex a little more muscle and show another side?

Crisis mode

It was really fun to play someone that was that. She's in a pure crisis mode, she's stuck in anger and bargaining, she's a tough woman and she's unapologetic about it and I really liked playing that.

RYAN. All praises for the film's script.

I really appreciated the adventure of going to all these different places and I think the cloaked world of kidnapping was really, really fascinating. I had no idea that this was the kind of enormous business that it is.

Strictly on a professional level, how was it working with Russell Crowe? Is he the next kind of action hero emerging onto the scene?

I think he's more than that. He's a really fascinating actor. He can do anything he sets his sights on. He's really concentrated, really specific, really detail oriented, he's a great guy to have on the set. It was a real family feeling at the end that he strongly contributed to.

When I read more about the making of this film and how difficult it was, I thought, 'My God.'

Well, it's really true that I can't do one ounce of complaining because everybody else had such a difficult time. They were up at 14,000 feet, David Morse had to lose and then gain 25 pounds or something.

Logistical problems

Just mud up to here, horrible weather, just terrible, logistical problems and I probably had the best hotel suite I had in my entire life. It had a ballroom in it. It was insane.

Did you have any idea going into this film that they were taking out insurance on all the cast members for ransom?

The same people that this movie is about both produced and insured this movie. Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week there was security and the day before we left for Ecuador there was a coup there.

Nutty

One day, we were shooting in this really beautiful cathedral square and out of the blue, I'm not kidding you, an enormous hailstorm came. When we recovered from that there was a tear gas attack two blocks from away. It was just nutty.

This whole concept of putting a price on someone's life, isn't that so bizarre?

Well, first, I had no idea there was a kidnap industry and that it was as enormous as it is. In the last 20 years, multinational corporations have spent like a billion dollars in kidnap ransom.

That there is such a thing as kidnap insurance just blows my mind. If you are an executive at a multinational company, then it's most likely you have insurance if you are ever kidnapped. It's that frequent, it's that kind of political instrument, it's that kind of use of gangsterism.

> 'Most people think that Meg's giddy, comedic film character is who she really is. In reality, she's serious, intelligent and complex'-- Director Taylor Hackford

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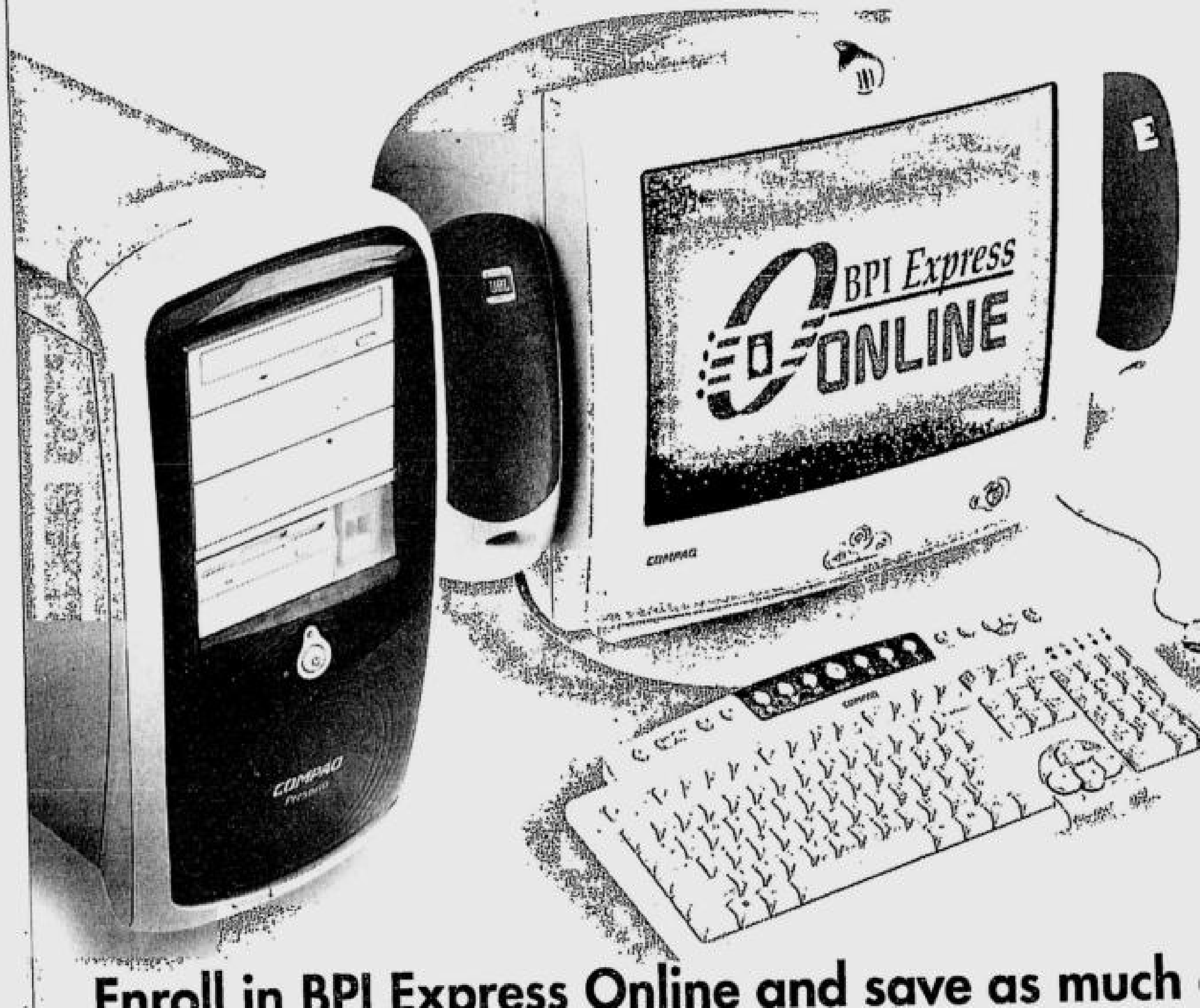

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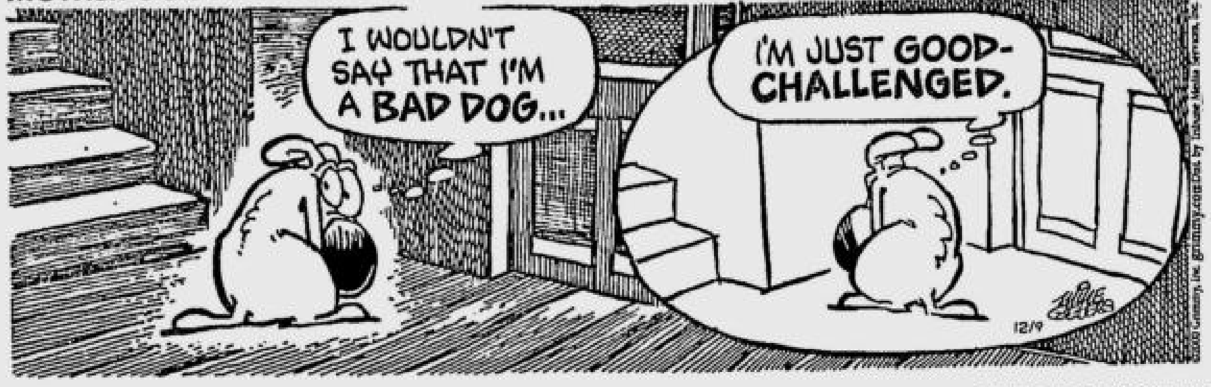
COMIC Relief

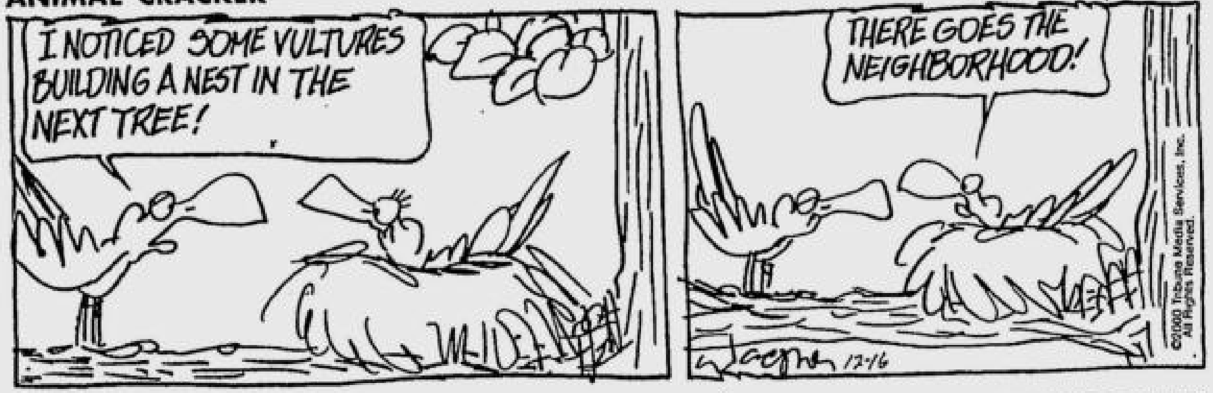
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


I WOULDN'T SAY THAT I'M A BAD DOG...
I'M JUST GOOD-CHALLENGED.
12/9

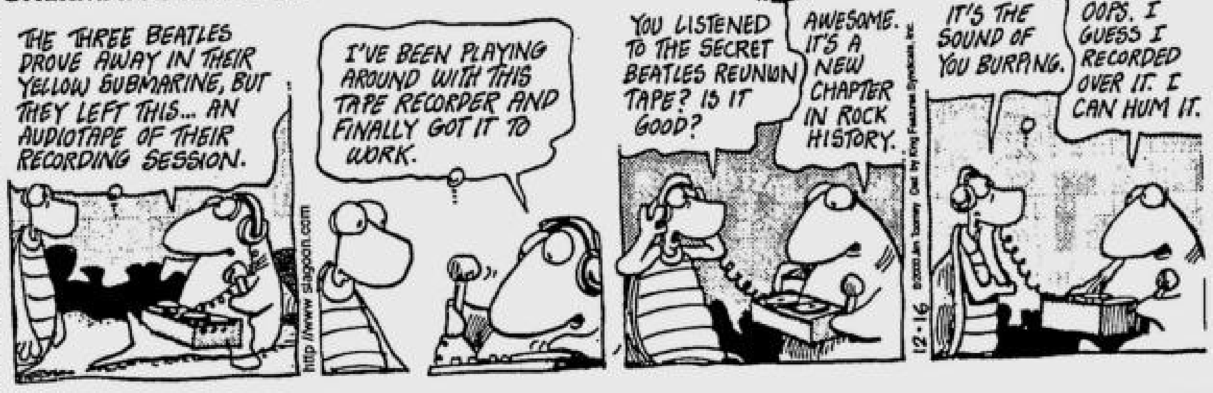
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


I NOTICED SOME VULTURES BUILDING A NEST IN THE NEXT TREE!
THERE GOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD!
12-16

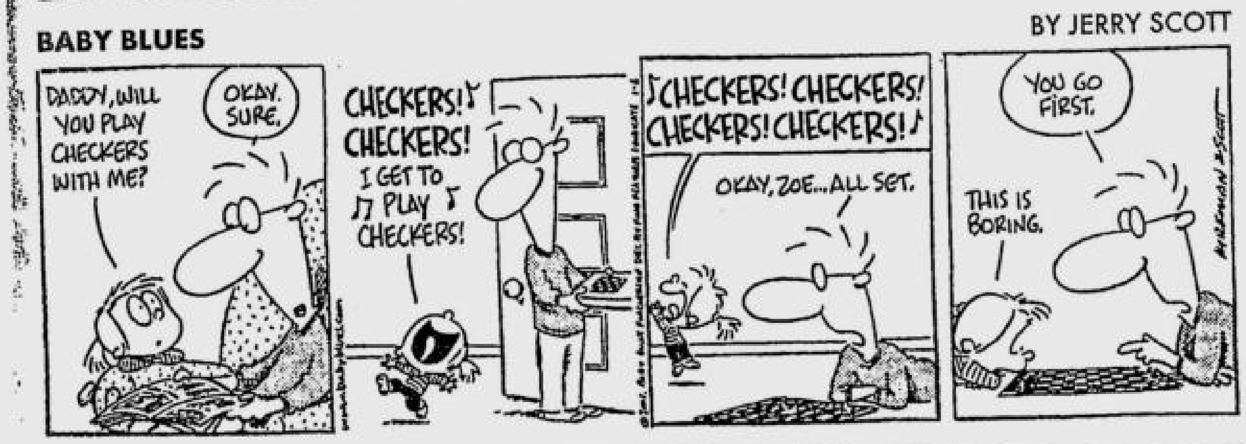
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


THE THREE BEATLES DROVE AWAY IN THEIR YELLOW SUBMARINE, BUT THEY LEFT THIS... AN AUDIOTAPE OF THEIR RECORDING SESSION.
I'VE BEEN PLAYING AROUND WITH THIS TAPE RECORDER AND FINALLY GOT IT TO WORK.
YOU LISTENED TO THE SECRET BEATLES REUNION TAPE? IS IT GOOD?
AWESOME. IT'S A NEW CHAPTER IN ROCK HISTORY.
IT'S THE SOUND OF YOU BURPING.
OOPS. I GUESS I RECORDED OVER IT. I CAN HUM IT.
http://www.slagoon.com
12-16

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


DADDY, WILL YOU PLAY CHECKERS WITH ME?
OKAY. SURE.
CHECKERS! CHECKERS! I GET TO PLAY CHECKERS!
CHECKERS! CHECKERS! CHECKERS! CHECKERS!
OKAY, ZOE... ALL SET.
YOU GO FIRST.
THIS IS BORING.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Donna Reed, Tracy Lawrence, Mimi Rogers, Frank Augustyn, Bridget Fonda

Happy Birthday: Keep your personal life in order, and the rest of your life will fall into place. Nurture relationships this year, and you will discover how great life can be. This can be a gratifying year if you keep a sense of balance in your life. You must learn to play as hard as you work. It will be important to follow your dreams and aspirations. Your numbers: 5, 12, 19, 24, 30, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't be drawn into a questionable plan at work. Gossip will only result in making you look bad. You must not take sides. Emotional upset will result in minor ailments.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Opportunities to meet new friends or lovers will unfold if you attend seminars, conventions or lectures. Your involvement in open discussions will bring you attention.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't be talked into spending too much on entertainment or dubious get-rich-quick schemes. It is best to give your time, not your cash when dealing with children or friends.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your lover will be uncertain about your relationship. Try to understand how he or she feels. You may want to give him or her more space until the uncertainty is resolved.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Look into making those career changes you've been contemplating. You have wonderful ideas, and if you present them well, you may find yourself climbing the corporate ladder.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your creative talent needs an outlet. Music, dancing or maybe even some writing would help satisfy your artistic desires. Don't hesitate to show your work. You will gain support and admiration.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If you've taken on too much as usual, you will find yourself in a tight spot this time. You had better sit down and decide what your priorities are before you disappoint someone you love.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Friends and relatives will be able to give you sound advice if you open up about your personal concerns. Travel will bring you in contact with interesting and intriguing new people.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your energy is high, and you're geared up to get ahead at work. Promote your ideas and don't be afraid to talk to your boss about your career direction.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let your mood swings take over. Someone you care about may back off you if you can't control your emotions. Be prepared to make personal changes if it's required.

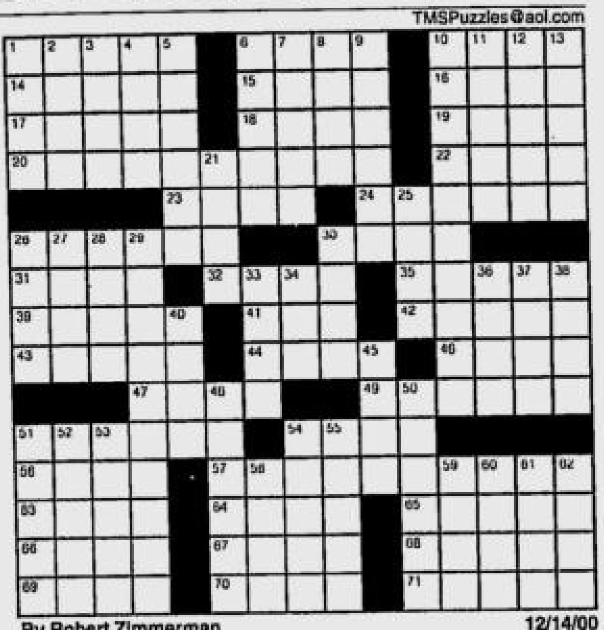
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Dealing with government agencies or authority figures will prove to be frustrating. Instead, concentrate on projects that involve your living quarters or innovative financial investments.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will enhance your reputation if you bend over backward to help someone in need. You are good at finding solutions to other people's problems. You will meet new friends if you go out.

Birthday Baby: You have a humanitarian outlook and are sensitive to the needs of others. You will do whatever you can to lend a helping hand.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com


By Robert Zimmerman
San Diego, CA
12/14/00

ACROSS
1 Oregon capital
6 Clothed
10 Poke fun at
14 Gothic arch
15 Vagabond
16 Continuous pain
17 Appointed
18 Break in the action
19 Ground grain
20 Best Picture of 1932
22 Seniors' org.
23 Majors and Marvin
24 Voices thoughts
26 Baby food brand
30 Heroic tale
31 Fence piece
32 Follow directions
35 Desert blooms
39 Small landmass
41 Mine vein
42 Was ill
43 Massacre in Vietnam, 1968
44 Large group
46 Unclothed
47 Dial control
49 "Gunsmoke" star
51 Man in the drink?
54 Wise guy
56 Yodeler's device
57 "Psycho" setting
63 Quaker's pronoun
64 Mr. Stravinsky
65 Chicago hub
66 Sawbucks
67 Native of Bangkok
68 Permissible
69 Border
70 Fill too much
71 __ on (coddles)

DOWN
1 Tape track
2 Lab gel
3 Peruvian capital
4 All tied up
5 Butt in
6 Daphnis' love
7 Galoots
8 Up to the task
9 Modicum
10 Du Maurier novel
11 Marine expanse
12 Allotted portion
13 Pitches in
21 Protagonist
25 Printer's measure
26 Dismal
27 Effortless
28 Brooklet
29 1853 Dickens novel
30 "For Your __ Only"
33 Flop
34 Roaring Twenties, e.g.
36 Bit of evidence
37 Turner and Knight
38 Bad time for Caesar
40 Pitchfork point
45 Droops
48 Satellites' paths
50 Completely refashion
51 Singer Midler
52 Rued the aerobics
53 Sandal strap
54 Summer ermine
55 Eagle's nest
58 Turkish title
59 Neighbor of Indiana
60 Diplomat's skill
61 Border lake
62 Allows to

SATURDAY PUZZLE ANSWER

N	I	K	E	■	S	L	O	O	P	■	F	A	Z	E
A	L	E	X	■	S	I	D	R	A	■	A	M	U	R
P	E	P	P	E	R	D	I	N	E	■	L	O	N	I
E	X	T	O	L	■	O	N	I	O	N	S	K	I	N
■	■	■	S	O	L	■	■	S	N	E	E	■	■	■
C	A	M	E	■	I	S	T	■	S	E	T	S	I	N
A	G	A	■	A	Z	U	R	E	■	S	T	E	N	O
R	O	S	E	M	A	R	Y	C	L	O	O	N	E	Y
O	R	O	N	O	■	A	S	H	E	N	■	O	R	E
M	A	N	T	R	A	■	T	O	E	■	A	R	T	S
■	■	■	W	A	R	S	■	■	R	E	O	■	■	■
B	A	S	I	L	I	C	A	S	■	S	U	S	I	E
A	L	A	N	■	S	A	L	T	A	T	I	O	N	S
J	A	K	E	■	E	M	A	I	L	■	L	A	O	S
A	S	I	S	■	S	P	I	R	E	■	A	R	N	O

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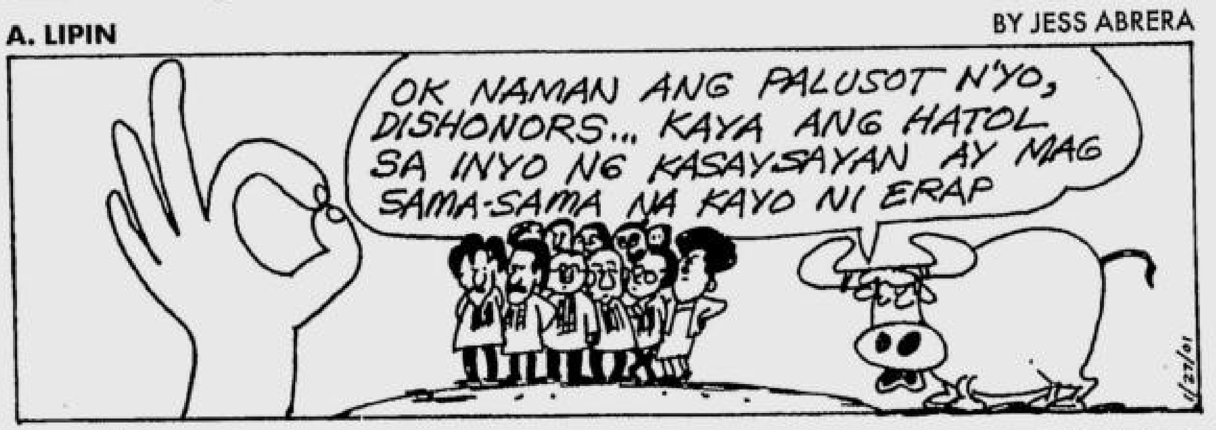
12/14/00

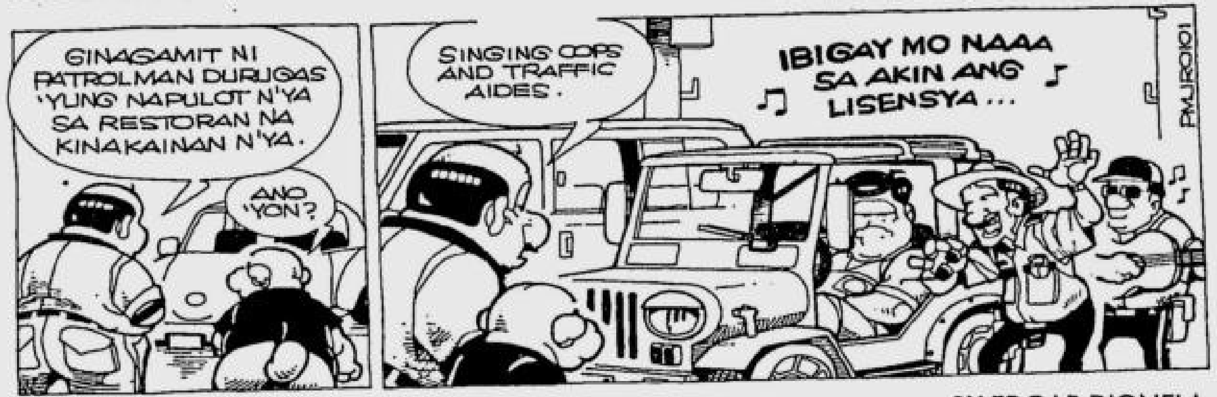
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


OK NAMAN ANG PALUSOT N'YO, DISHONORS... KAYA ANG HATOL SA INYO NG KASAYSAYAN AY MAG SAMA-SAMA NA KAYO NI ERAP
1/27/01

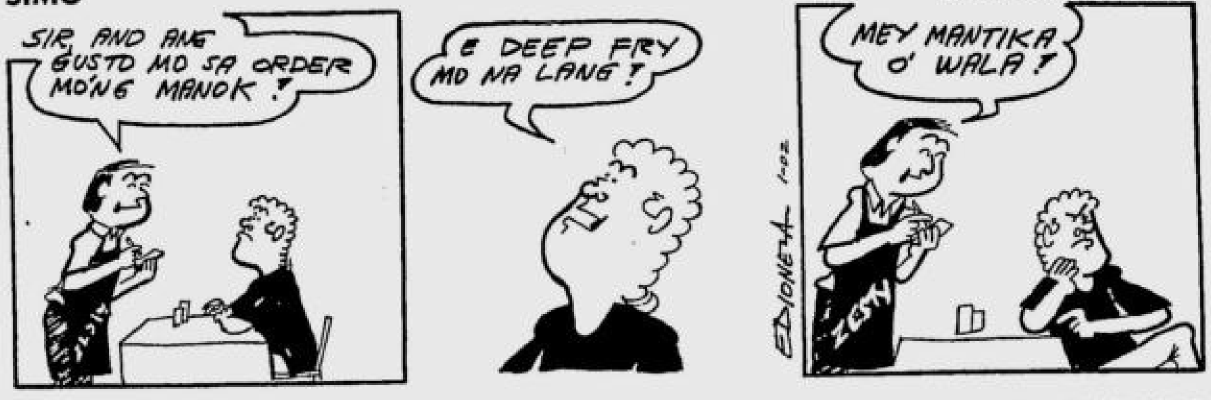
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


GINAGAMIT NI PATROLMAN DURUGAS 'YUNG NAPULOT N'YA SA RESTORAN NA KINAKAINAN N'YA.
ANO 'YON?
SINGING COPS AND TRAFFIC AIDES.
IBIGAY MO NAAA SA AKIN ANG LISENSYA...
PMJR0101

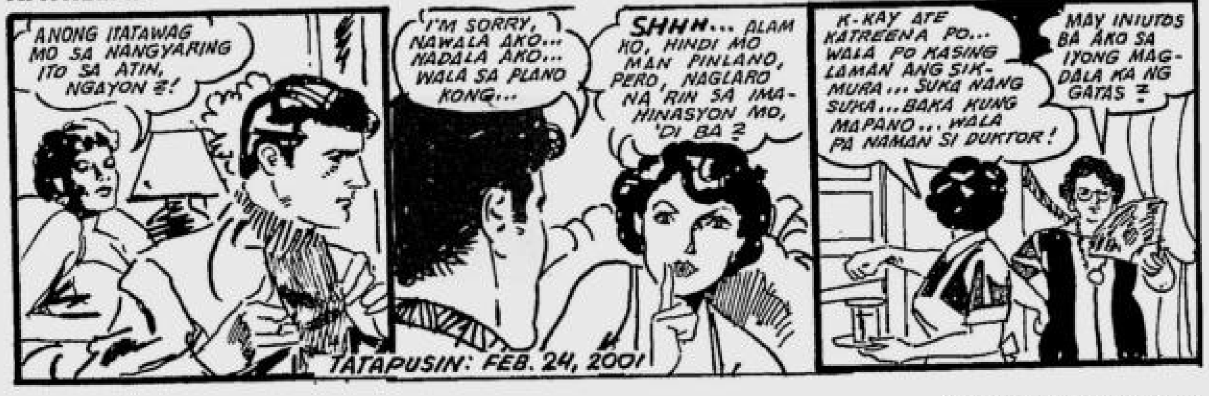
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


SIR, ANO ANG GUSTO MO SA ORDER MO'NG MANOK?
E DEEP FRY MO NA LANG!
MEY MANTIKA O' WALA?
EDIONELA 1-02

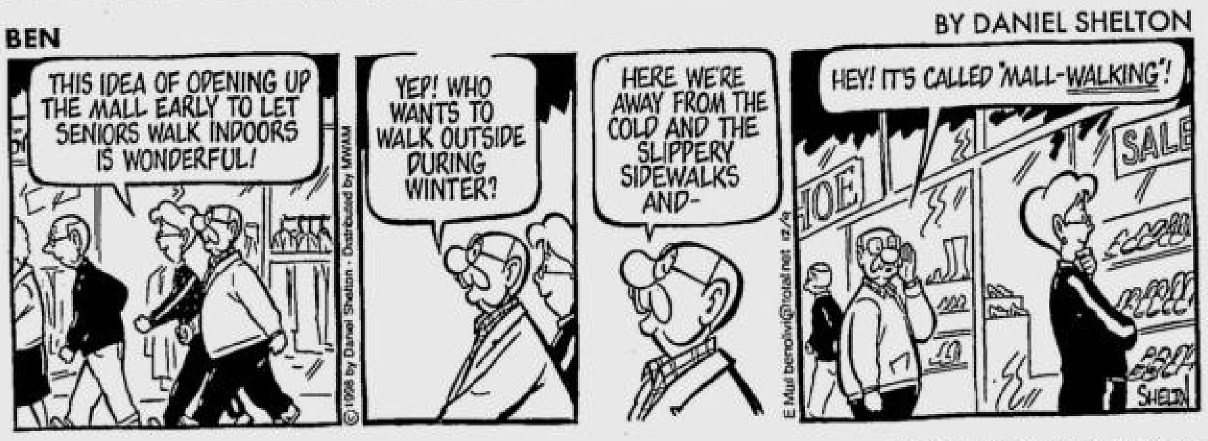
KATREENA

BY JOY CONIENDO


ANONG ITATAWAG MO SA NANGYARING ITO SA ATIN, NGAYON?!
I'M SORRY, NAWALA AKO... NADALA AKO... WALA SA PLANO KONG...
SHHH... ALAM KO, HINDI MO MAN PINLANO, PERO, NAGLARO NA 'RIN SA IMAHINASYON MO, 'DI BA?
K-KAY ATE KATREENA PO... WALA PO KASING LAMAN ANG SIKMURA... SUKA NANG SUKA... BAKA KUNG MAPANO... WALA PA NAMAN SI DUKTOR!
MAY INIUTOS BA AKO SA IYONG MAGDALA KA NG GATAS?
TATAPUSIN: FEB. 24, 2001

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


THIS IDEA OF OPENING UP THE MALL EARLY TO LET SENIORS WALK INDOORS IS WONDERFUL!
YEP! WHO WANTS TO WALK OUTSIDE DURING WINTER?
HERE WE'RE AWAY FROM THE COLD AND THE SLIPPERY SIDEWALKS AND-
HEY! IT'S CALLED "MALL-WALKING"!
SALE
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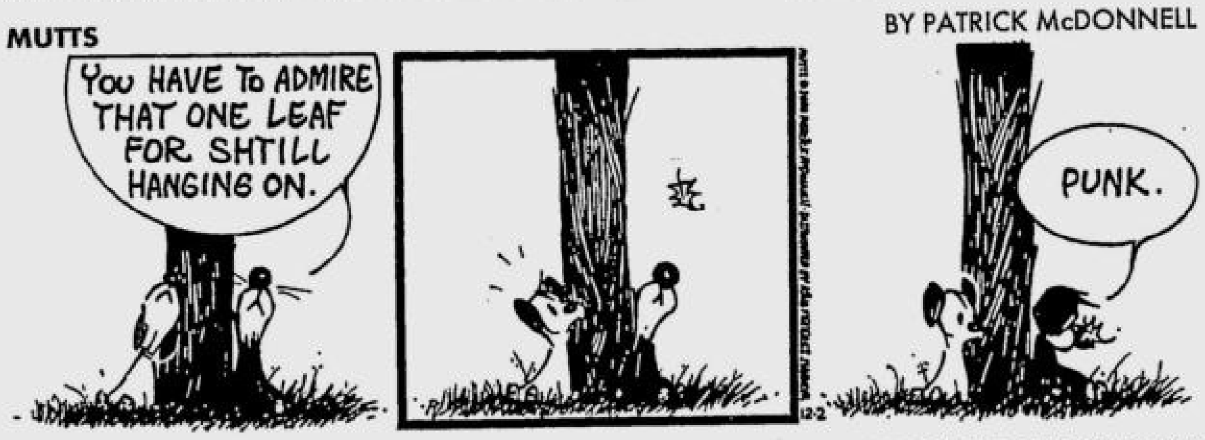
E Mail benolivi@total.net

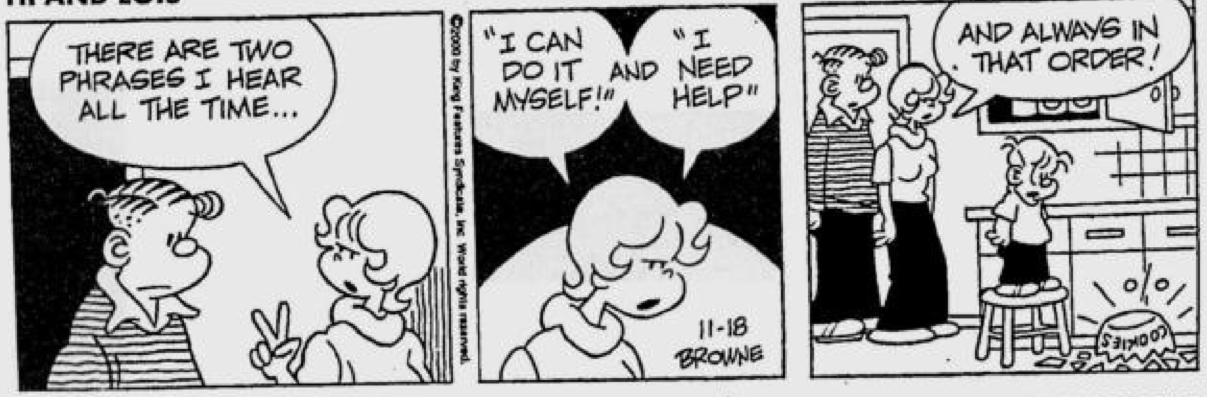
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


YOU HAVE TO ADMIRE THAT ONE LEAF FOR SHTILL HANGING ON.
PUNK.
12-2

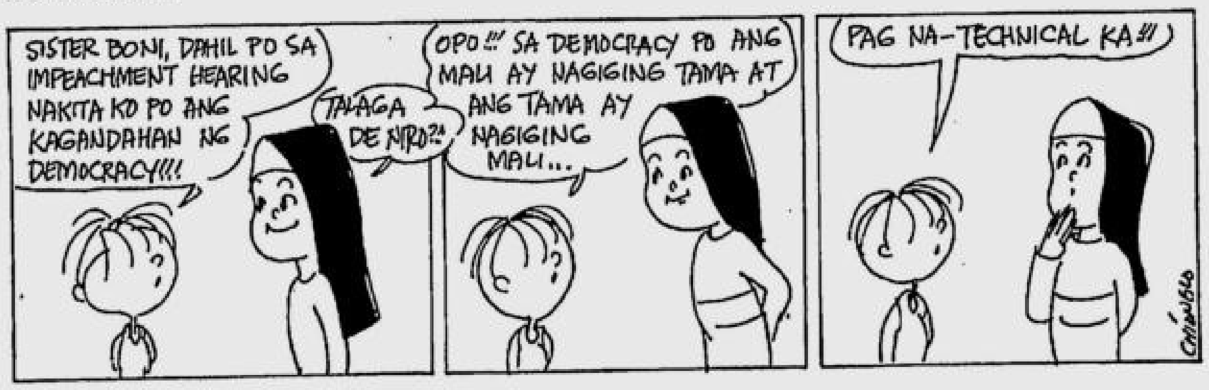
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


THERE ARE TWO PHRASES I HEAR ALL THE TIME...
"I CAN DO IT MYSELF!" AND "I NEED HELP"
AND ALWAYS IN THAT ORDER!
COOKIES
11-18 BROWNE

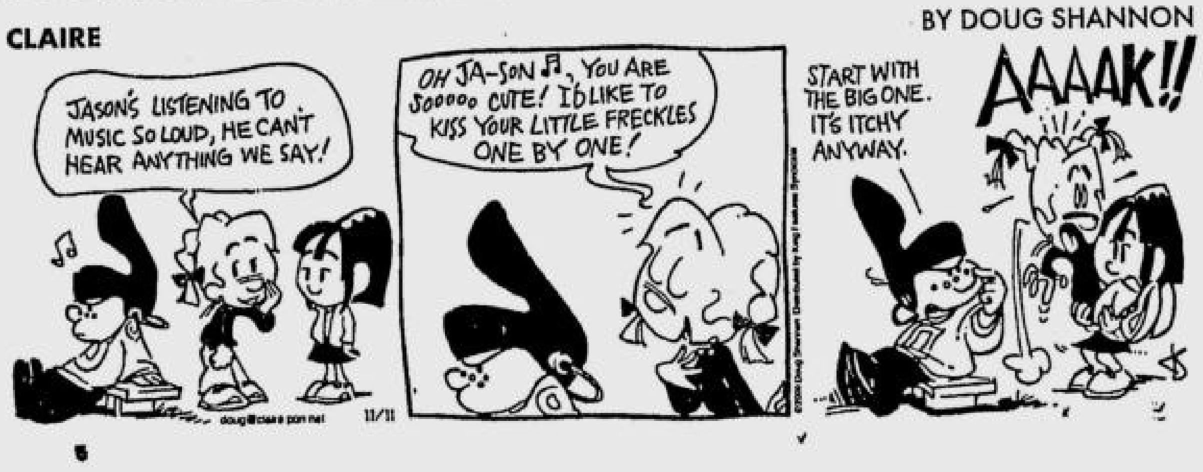
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SISTER BONI, DAHIL PO SA IMPEACHMENT HEARING NAKITA KO PO ANG KAGANDAHAN NG DEMOCRACY!!!
TALAGA DE NIRO?!
OPO!!! SA DEMOCRACY PO ANG MALI AY NAGIGING TAMA AT ANG TAMA AY NAGIGING MALI...
PAG NA-TECHNICAL KA!!!
CHIONGLO

CLAIRE

BY DOUG SHANNON


JASON'S LISTENING TO MUSIC SO LOUD, HE CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING WE SAY!
OH JA-SON, YOU ARE SOOOOO CUTE! I'D LIKE TO KISS YOUR LITTLE FRECKLES ONE BY ONE!
START WITH THE BIG ONE. IT'S ITCHY ANYWAY.
AAAK!!
doug@claire.pon.net
11/11

Ewan McGregor and Jude Law form theater company

By Paul Majendie

LONDON—British movie stars Ewan McGregor and Jude Law on Thursday, Jan. 11, launched a new theater company for the London stage, which has become dominated by Hollywood big names.

Theatrical roots

The two said the company offered a welcome chance to return to their theatrical roots and stressed they had no plans to make it a star-driven British antidote to the Hollywood invasion.

But the pulling power of "Star Wars" star McGregor and Law, nominated for an Oscar for his role in "The Talented Mr. Ripley," is certain to give box-office clout to the newly formed Natural Nylon Theatre Company.

Their first productions are to be Christopher Marlowe's "Dr. Faustus," a Christopher Hampton translation of Chekhov's "The Three Sisters" and an adaptation of John Frowles' haunting novel "The Collector."

Law told a packed London news conference: "We are taking a positive step, hopefully, to improve the quality of theater... We are adding to the mix."

LAW. Adding to the mix.

McGregor, who has just completed his second "Star Wars" film as Obi Wan Kenobi, was eager to tread the boards once more.

Snobbery

"I have always believed that there is a snobbery from one to the next—movie to theater and vice versa. If you are lucky to work in both as Jude and I are, then you realize they both teach you about the other," he said.

London's theaterland has recently attracted a string of Hollywood stars. Kathleen Turner, Kevin Spacey and Jessica Lange abandoned their opulent movie trailers for pokey little dressing rooms—and garnered rave reviews for their performances.

Bu McGregor stressed this was not an attempt to redress the balance with Tinseltown.

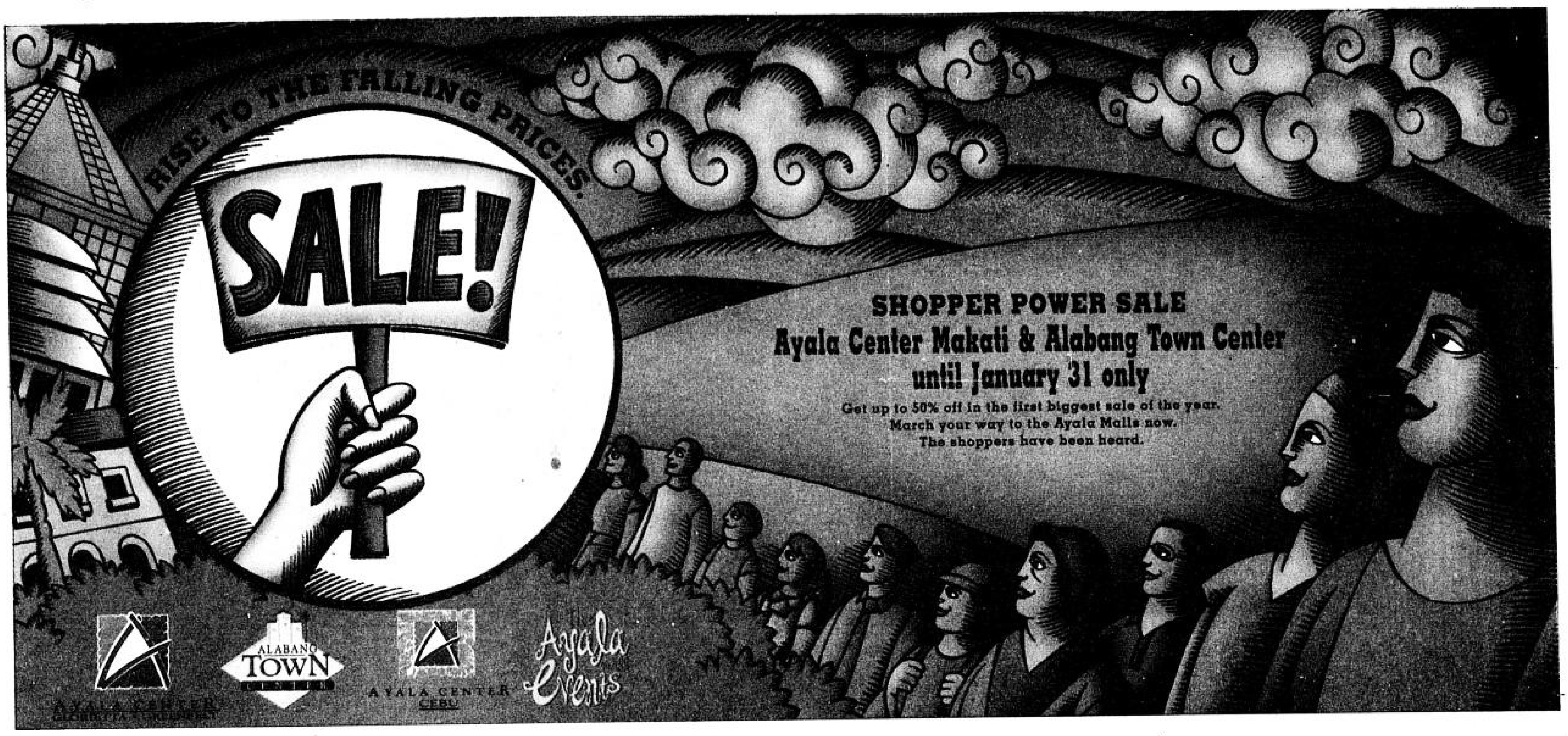
"No. This is purely an attempt to do some good theater," McGregor said. "We are not trying to strike out against anything else." He would not be tied down on which roles he and Law would take with the new company.

Law, who has just finished shooting the film "AI" for Steven Spielberg, is ready, willing and able to go live again on stage.

"There is only so long you can go from film to film to film," he told reporters. "Theater is a slightly more raw experience than working in film. The idea of balancing it is exactly what we would like to do."

McGregor said: "I feel exactly the same. I left it for seven years before I went back on stage and I now know not to leave it that long again."

Reuters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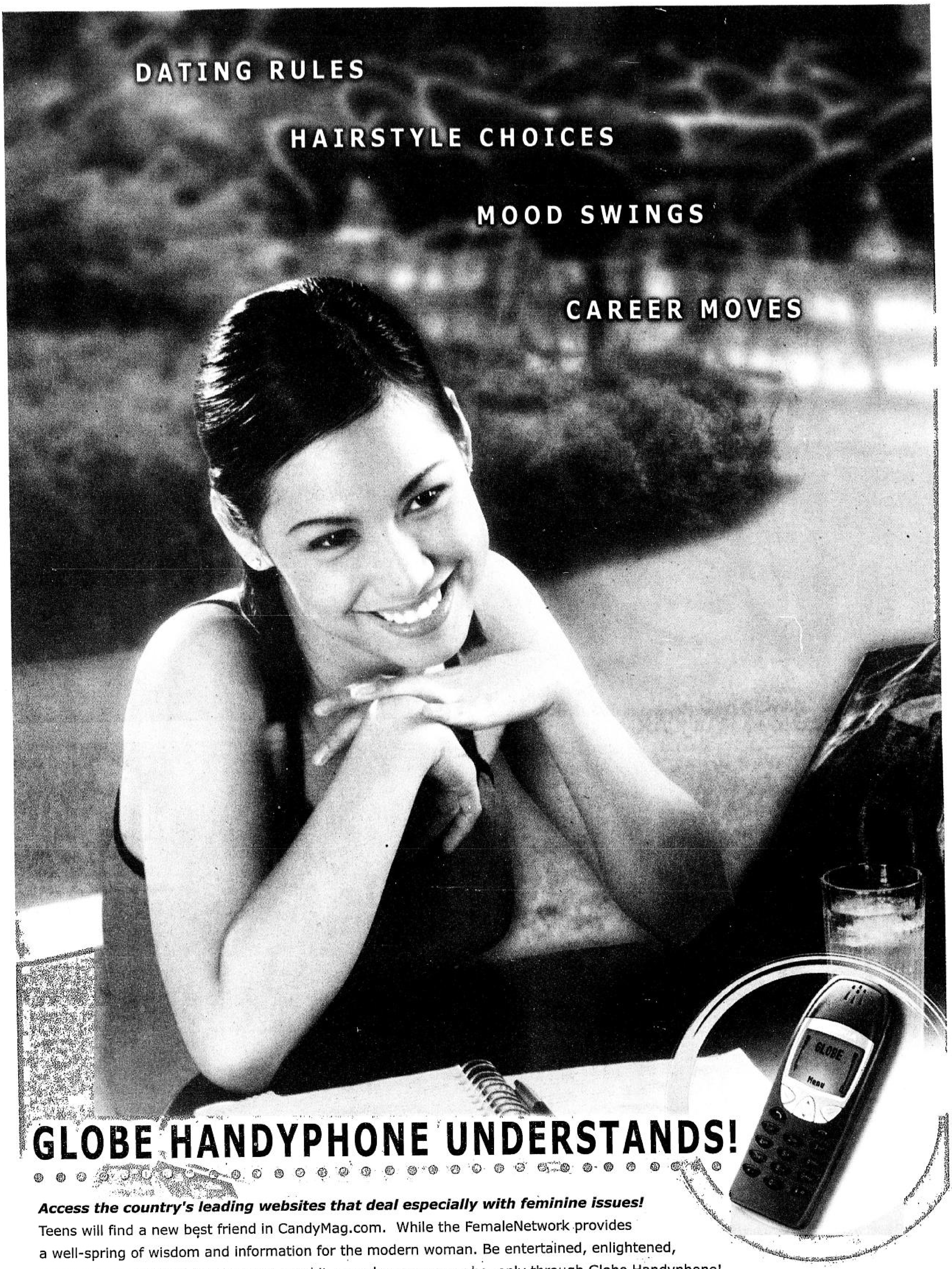

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Once connected, the Globe Homepage will appear. Click on the Female Views under the Entertainment Category and WAP away!

Junior INQUIRER

WHAT'S INSIDE:

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- Kiddie events Page 3
- Story: 'Tertel and the King' Page 6
- The Lunch Box Page 11

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2001 ✦ 12 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 5, NUMBER 16

WWW.INQUIRER.NET

Astronomers Find Two New Planetary Systems

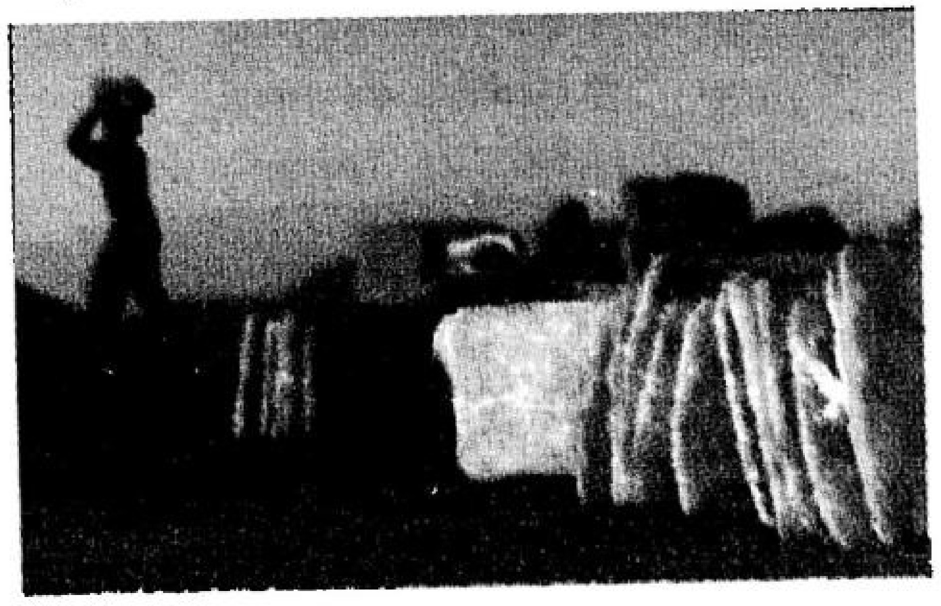
SCIENTIFIC planet hunters have found two new planetary systems, neither of them much like ours and one of them downright bizarre, researchers say.

One star has two planets locked in harmonic orbits—one twice as fast as the other—while the second star's satellites are huge, one of them so big that it challenges the very definition of a planet, the scientists said at the annual meeting of the American Astronomical Society.

Astronomers/p.4

STEPH BRAVO

WORLD SCOPE

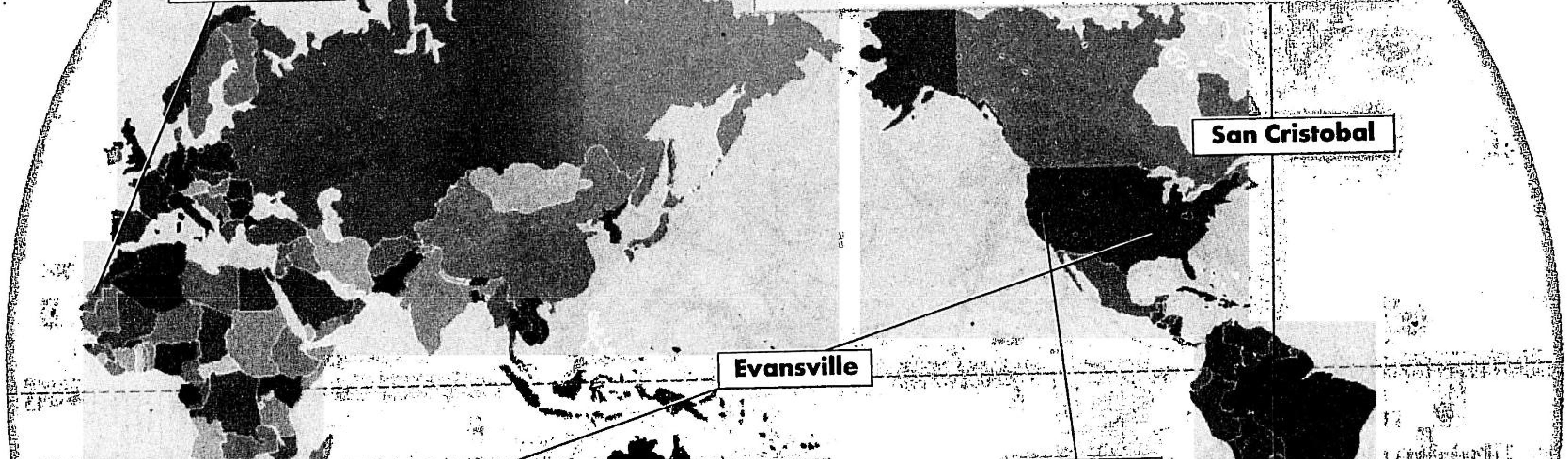


Salt road

JUST after sunrise, blocks of pure salt cut from the earth, sit stacked in rows awaiting carriers in this makeshift mining settlement in the Sahara. A few hundred men spend roughly half a year living on salty water and rice so they can earn a small living, using only their hands and archaic tools to cut earthen salt from the rocky plain. The current salt road through the desert is one of the last dying vestiges of a once lucrative and vital trans-Saharan trade route. **AP**

Precious cave paintings

PRE-COLOMBIAN drawings decorate a cave in San Cristobal, Dominican Republic. More than five centuries ago, Christopher Columbus landed on this island and set in motion events that would wipe out its Taino Indians. Now limestone mining threatens some of the last remaining evidence that Tainos ever lived here: thousands of drawings and carvings left in caves that Tainos considered sacred sites. **AP**

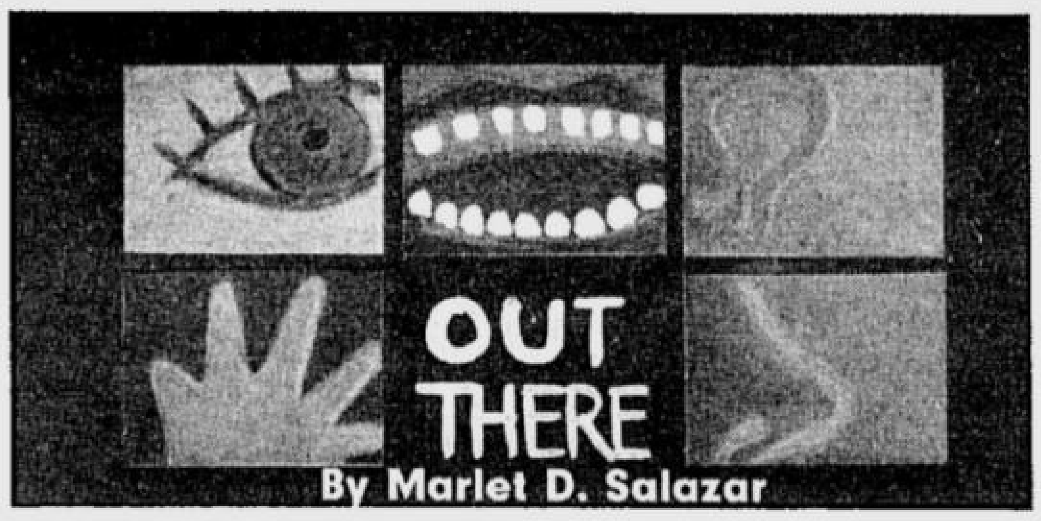


Everything's all right

FIREFIGHTER Brandon Fagin rushes one of four dogs caught in a house fire to paramedics and a waiting oxygen mask. All four dogs were saved. **AP**

Wrist mobile

GADGETS just keep getting portable. In this photo, the Samsung SPH-S100 watch combines a cell phone and wristwatch in one. The model was displayed at a trade show in the United States. **AP**



By Marlet D. Salazar

Got something for Out There?
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Activities

CHILDREN'S CHOIR CONCERT. It's a festival of the best kiddie choirs in Metro Manila! Catch it on Feb. 1 at the Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. For details contact CCP at 832-1125.

Exhibit

ASIAN KIDDIE ART. Check out last year's winners of the Mitsubishi Impression Gallery—Festival of Asian Children's Art at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Winning entries were selected from 22 countries in the Asian regions including the Philippines. The exhibit runs until Feb. 11 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the 2/F lobby of the CCP. Admission is free!

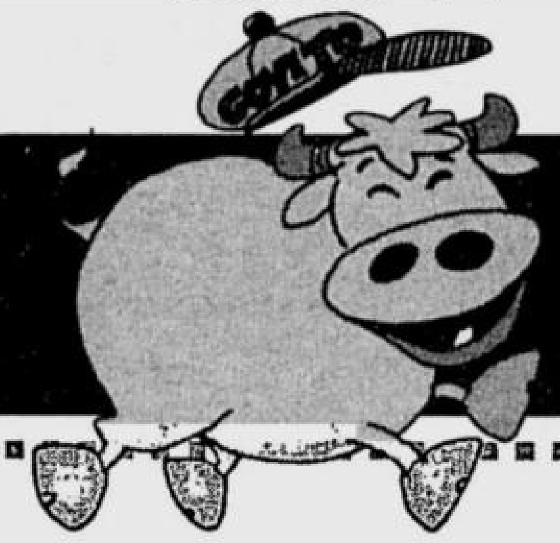
Contest

POSTER DESIGN. The Philippine Board on Books for Young People is now accepting designs for the 2001 National Children's Book Day poster. The slogan is "Aklat Ko, Mahal Ko." For important details, call up 372-3548 or 49. The PBBY office is located at 73-A Scout Limbaga St. Barangay Laging Handa, Quezon City.

Cable Picks

ANIMAL X. Animal Planet introduces viewers to the oddest animals of the natural and supernatural worlds with premiere episodes of "Animal X." From a dog that can hypnotize people into a deep sleep to an Egyptian ghoul who attacks unsuspecting humans passing in the night, "Animal X" reveals the legends and surprising facts about these strange animals. Tune in to Animal Planet starting Feb. 3 at 6:30 p.m.

Wanna be a JI correspondent?



WRITE an essay about your most amazing, weirdest, strangest daydream and send it to us on or before **March 5.**

Don't forget to include a piece of paper that has your name, age, address, contact number, school, e-mail address and parents' or guardian's names. Submit your essays typewritten and double-spaced on short bond paper. Mail it to:

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Makati Central Post Office
1263 Makati City

Astronomers Find Two New Planetary Systems

(from page 1)

While astronomers have found dozens of planets outside our solar system over the last five years, these two new systems are only the second and third with more than one planet orbiting a star.

These discoveries are part of a long-term project to search for planets among 1,100 stars within 300 light years of Earth, which in cosmic terms is fairly close. A light year is about 6 trillion miles, the distance light travels in a year.

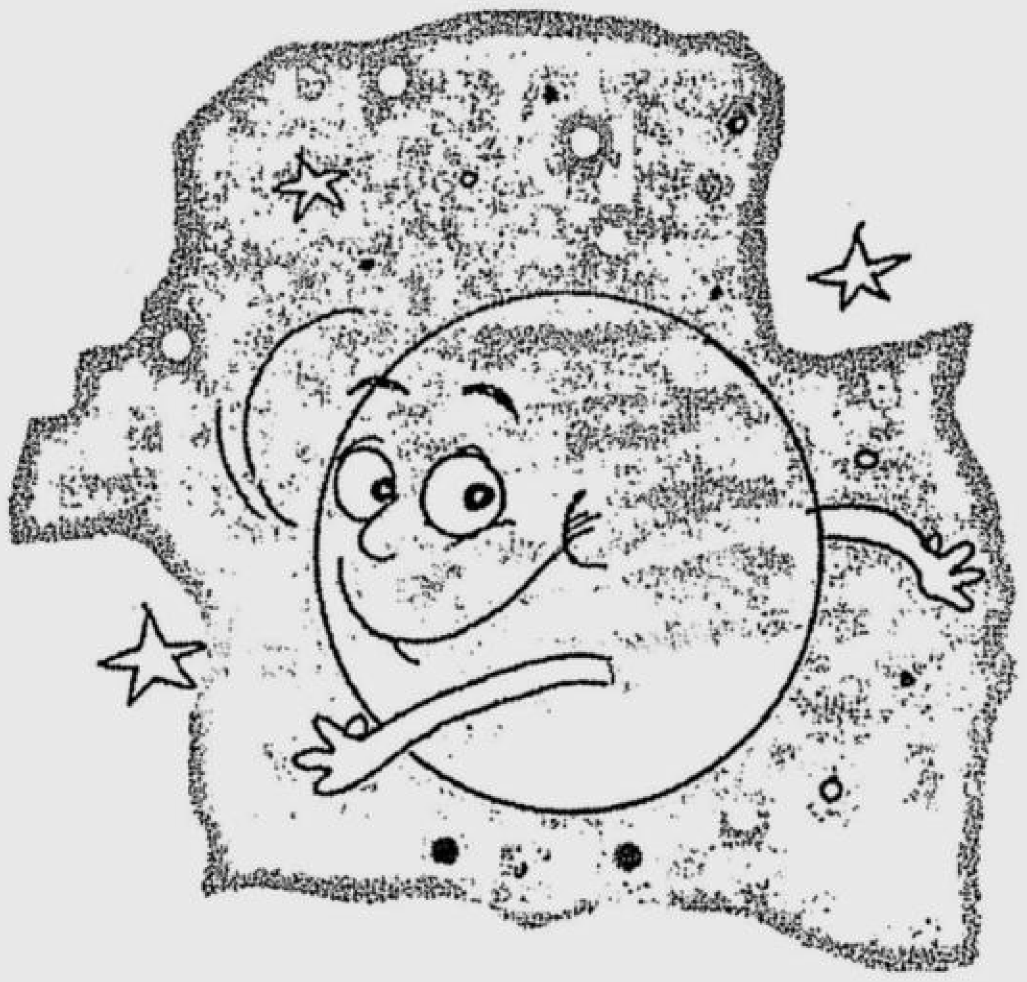
These two new systems initially fooled astronomers, who previously believed each star had only one possible planet in its thrall. The planets are not literally seen, but are detected by a characteristic wobble of the stars they orbit. The putative planets' gravitational pull causes the wobble.

The sun-like star HD 168443, 123 light years away in the constellation Serpens, has two monster planets orbiting it, according to astronomer Geoffrey Marcy of the University of California-Berkeley and Paul Butler of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

Both of these planets are big, but one is so huge that it makes the whole system "truly bizarre," Marcy said in an answer to e-mailed questions.

Too big to be a planet?

"The outer companion (of this star) is so massive, between 17 and 40 times the mass of Jupiter, that it seems too large for a conventional planet," Marcy said.



"We frankly don't know what name to give it! Is it a planet or brown dwarf...We simply don't know," Marcy said.

The other star with two planets around it is Gliese 876 in the constellation Aquarius, a mere 15 light years from Earth.

Gliese's satellites are more seemly in size, with one planet at least half the mass of Jupiter and the other with nearly twice Jupiter's mass.

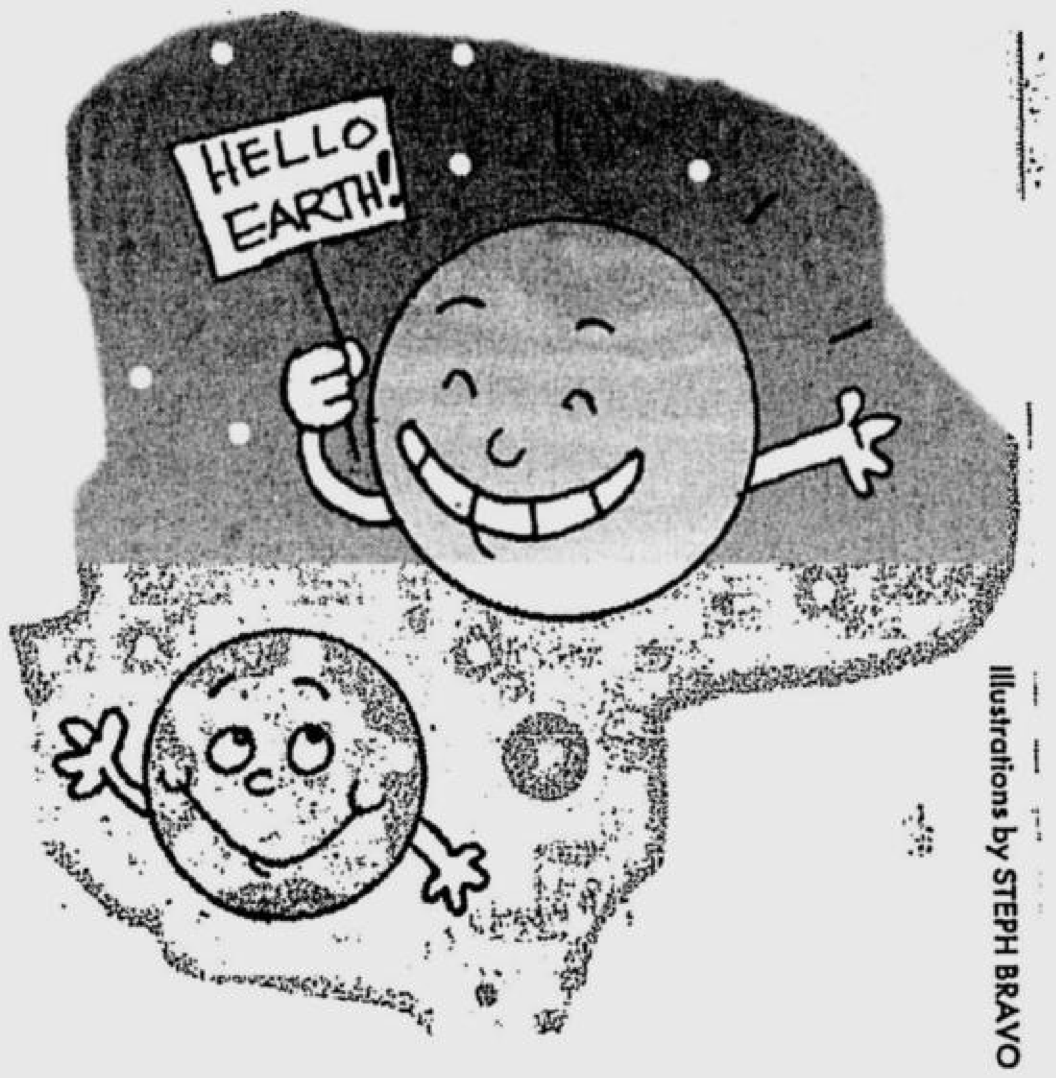
What makes them remarkable is their resonant orbits. The smaller planet orbits the star twice for every one 60-day orbit of the bigger planet, the astronomers said.

This synchrony may have led astronomers to believe there was just one planet around the star, according to astronomer Jack Lissauer of the NASA Ames Research Center in California.

But their closeness to each other may help scientists learn more about planets in our own solar system, he said.

"They're tugging on each other much closer than any other pair that we've seen," Lissauer said, referring to the planets' gravitational pull. He said this proximity may let astronomers determine the actual masses of these two bodies, rather than just the minimum masses they have for most extrasolar planets.

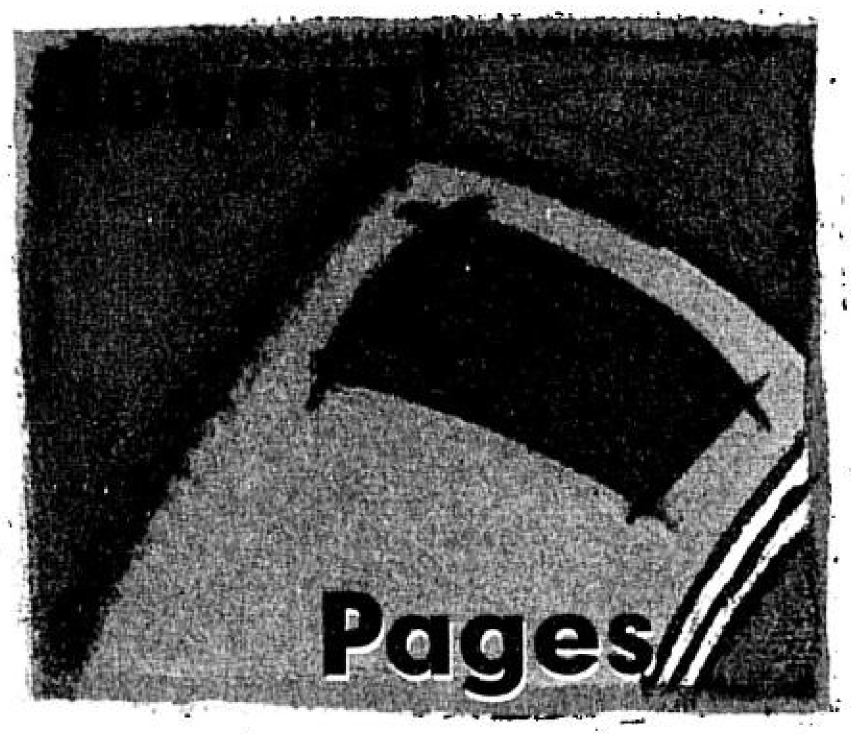
"The two-to-one ratio (in the planets' orbits) probably implies that the planets formed separately with different periods," Marcy said. "But one planet moved from its original location. As it moved, it gravitationally shepherded the other planet in the current two-to-one ratio."


HELLO EARTH!

Illustrations by STEPH BRAVO

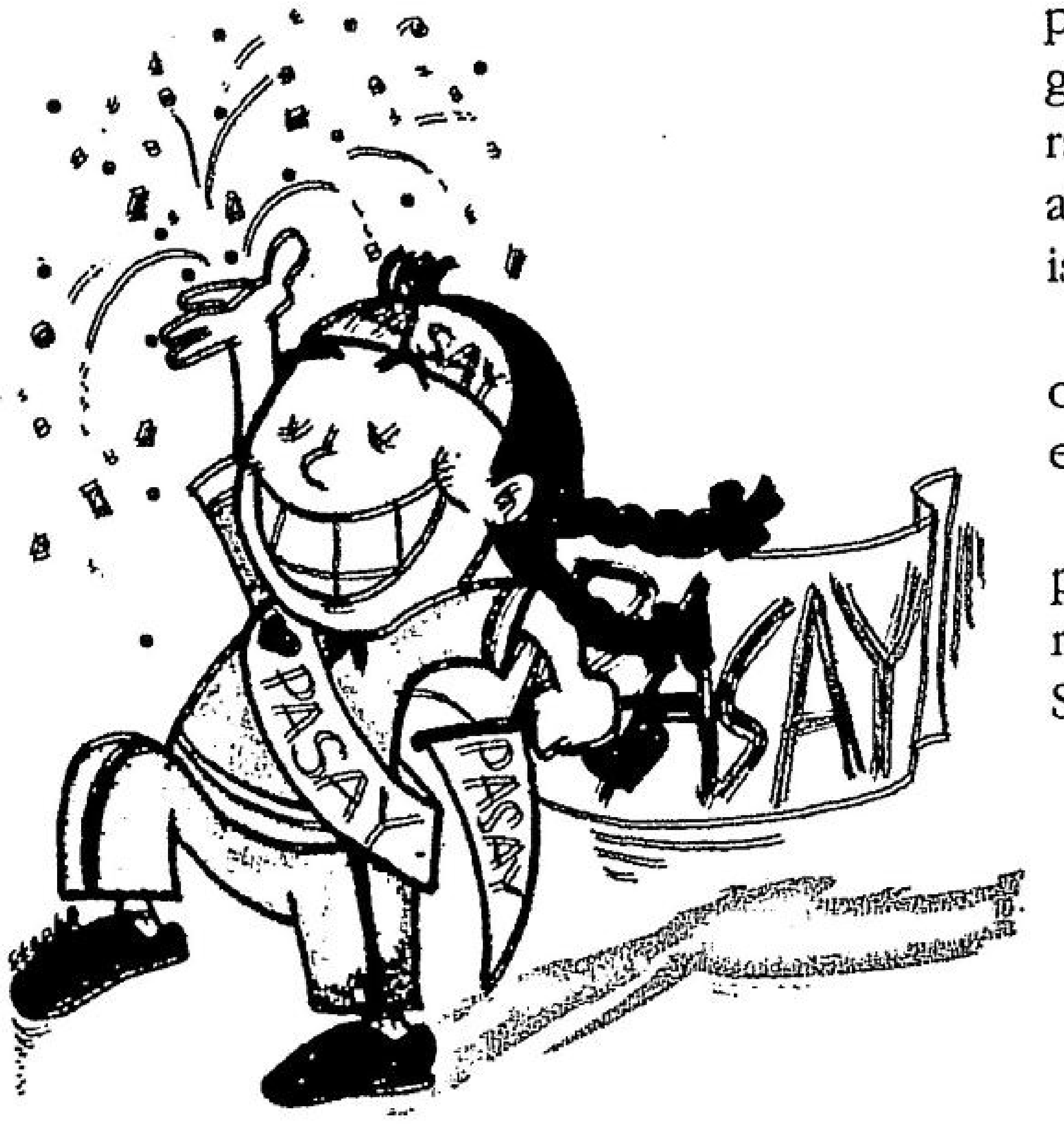
He said this was similar to the planets Neptune and Pluto in our solar system, which have an orbital period of three-to-two. Neptune moved and is shepherding Pluto, Marcy said.

Reuters



Pasay: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

AN EXCERPT FROM AN ESSAY
BY JERIKA ARA G. AVANCEÑA
JOSE ABAD SANTOS HIGH SCHOOL
(ARELLANO UNIVERSITY)
PASAY CITY



I CAN say it loud now: "Ladies and gentlemen, I hail from Pasay, I have my roots in Pasay." I say it with pride growing in my heart. Pasay is my city."

In the not so distant past, I was not this proud and daring. When friends and I talked of origins, I was ashamed of mine.

Who could be proud of a city where garbage blocked the flow of traffic? Who would admit that she came from the "gambling city"? I didn't want my friends to think that my roots are of gamblers, prostitutes, pushers, or users. I didn't come from the underworld. I wasn't proud of my city then.

A few years ago, Pasay was very ill: I heard of gambling lords; of policemen asking for bribes from sidewalk vendors; of "employees" who take their salaries but don't show up for work. . .

Residents almost forgot about the city's noble ancestry. Yes, we in Pasay can claim that we had noble ancestors. Rajah Soliman ruled ancient barangays in this part of the world and so did his daughter, Princess Pasay.

. . .Today we can look at Pasay anew—the city has nine health centers, one general hospital, two fire stations and two small parks. The fear of sickness and of fire are gone today. . .We hear of a decreased crime rate. We see policemen or barangay *tanods* at every corner and we are assured that Pasay is on its way to recovery.

. . .We, the youth, shall shape the future of Pasay. . .We will build a city of achievers—from the the poor and the rich.

. . .Tomorrow, our descendants will be proud of their city. Noble-hearted men will reign in Pasay. We will kindle the Rajah Soliman spirit in every person.

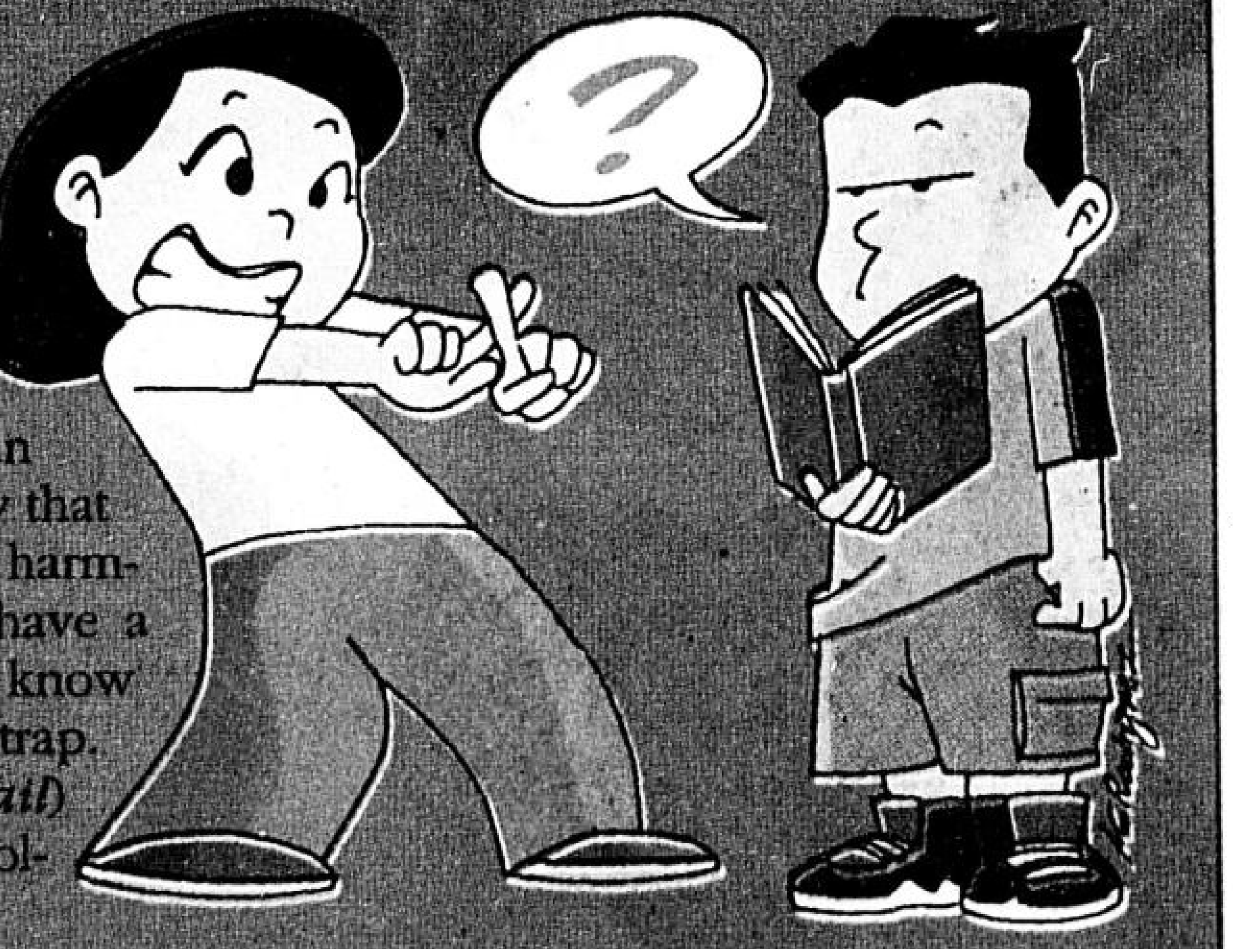
Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!

Harry Potter and Witchcraft

I'VE read a couple of those letters published in JUNIOR INQUIRER saying Harry Potter is not demonic. This is what I think: Have you thought of the impression the book gives on witchcraft? Since it is a fun story, it associates fun with witchcraft! That means there is a possibility that some kids will think witchcraft is fun. That it's harmless and exciting! Sadly, children who don't have a strong foundation of faith, children who don't know Jesus Christ and God can easily fall into this trap. They can believe in witchcraft.—*(via e-mail)* **REGINA BUENAVENTURA**, Grade VI, St. Paul College of Pasig



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Journal Pages

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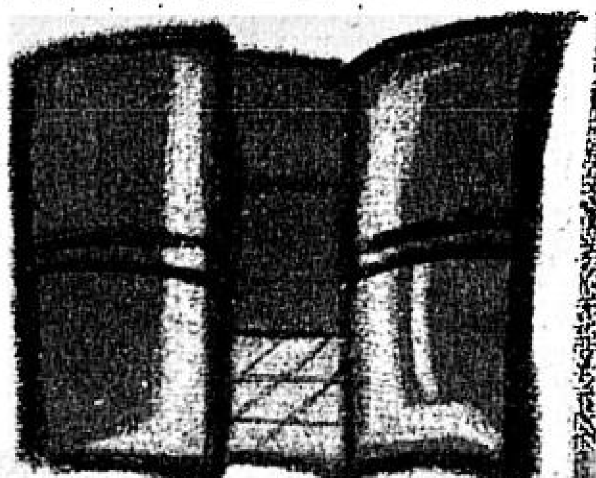

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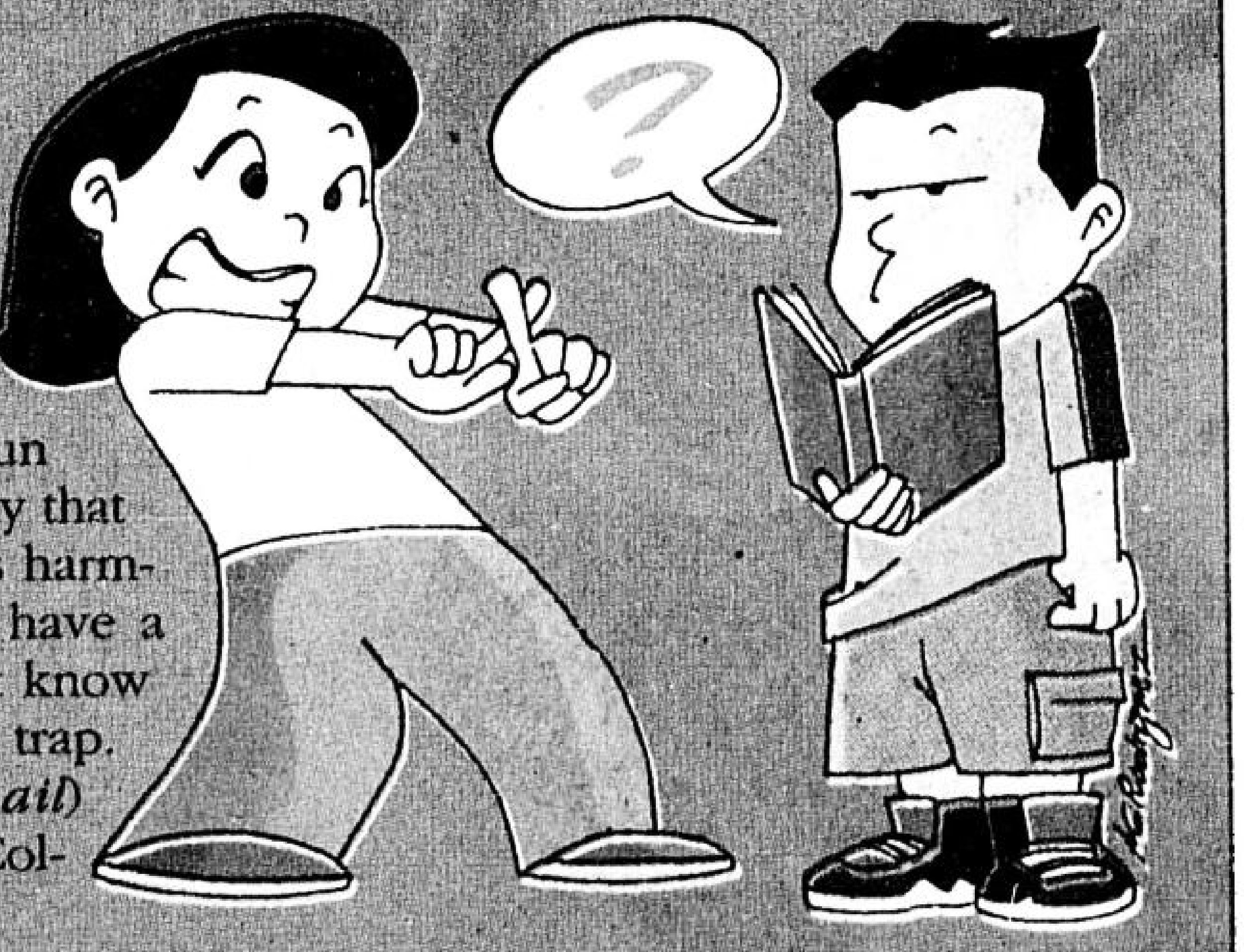

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FOR or By KIDS

TERTEL AND T

STORY BY MARTIN J. PACIS
ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEPH BRAVO

ONCE there was a kingdom named Sever. It was not a big kingdom, but it was a nice place to live in. However, there was a problem and it was their king.

King Portik was very lazy. The people were not happy with him anymore and they wanted to have him dethroned.

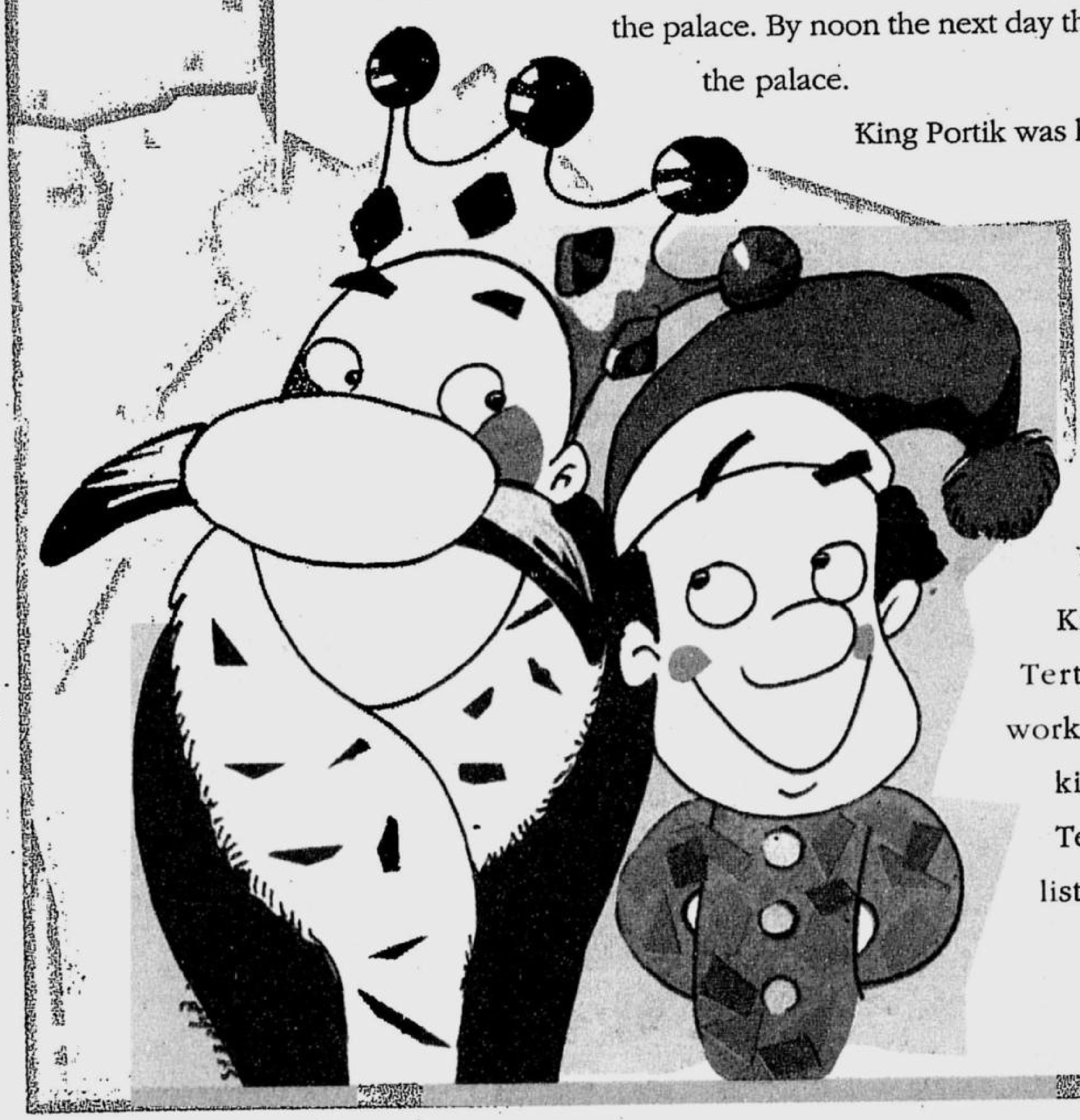
When King Portik learned of this, he got very worried. So King Portik decided to ask his advisers what he should do. The king had a loyal servant named Glopa who heard of his problem. So Glopa told King Portik and his advisers that he knew of a great and very wise turtle named Tertel who lived deep inside the forest.

King Portik immediately had his soldiers go out to find Tertel and bring him back to the palace. By noon the next day the soldiers had brought Tertel to the palace.

King Portik was happy to see Tertel and immediately told him of his problem.

Tertel then told King Portik that he had a potion that may help the king. But he made it clear to the king that the potion would work only if the king gathered the ingredients himself.

King Portik agreed so long as Tertel promised him it would work. Tertel promised him, so the king wanted to start right away. Tertel handed King Portik the list and this is what it said. . .



. . .1) all the dirt you can sw

. . .2) the last seed crop you

. . .3) the last crop you are t

. . .4) all the sweat you can

After reading the list King Po

Then Tertel said, “I'm sorry y
to keep your kingdom.”

King Portik thought for awhi

Glopa who saw that the king
help you save your kingdom.”

“Thank you!” said King Porti

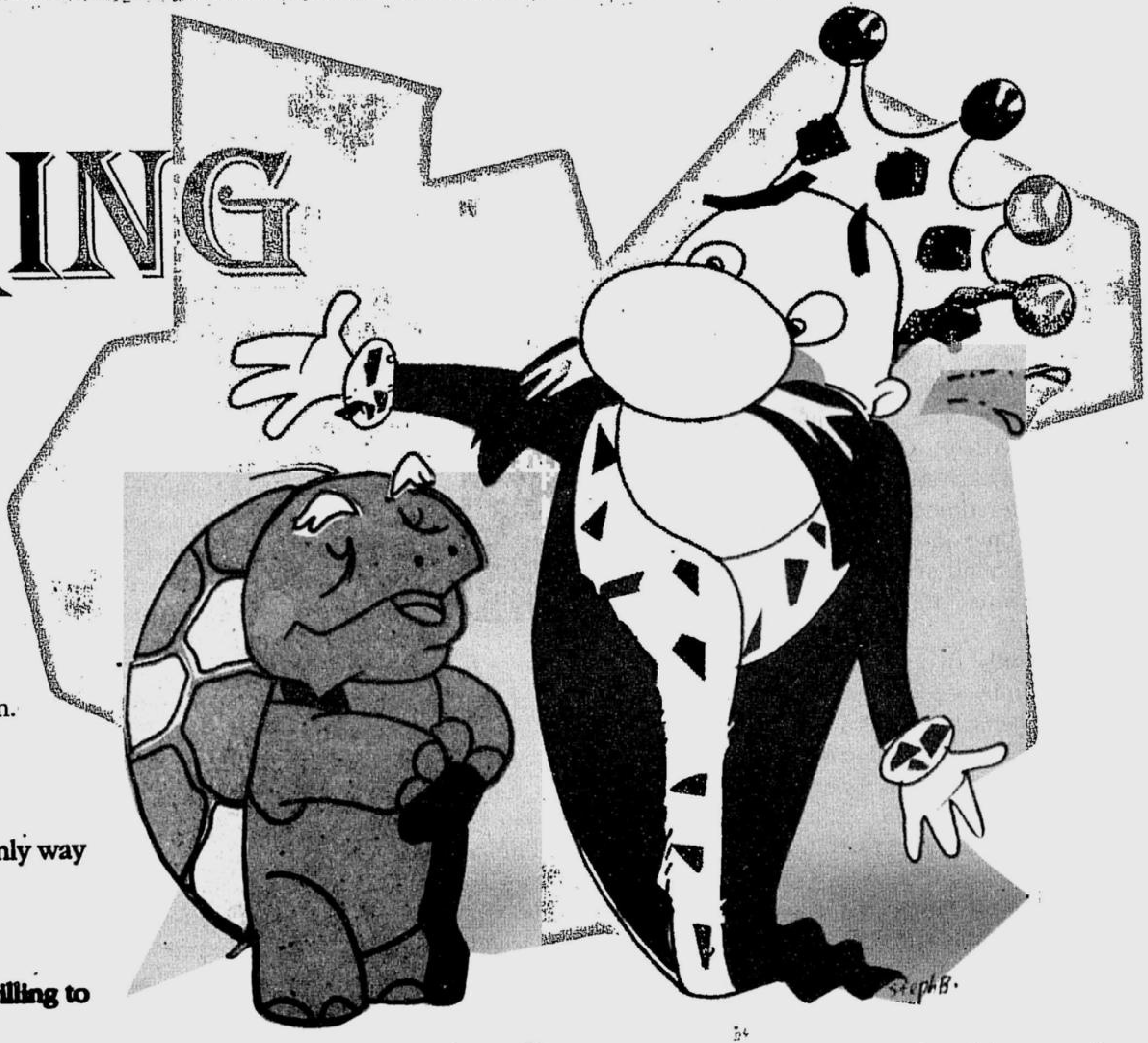
But Tertel was quick to add
here but yourself.” So King P
“Okay.”

King Portik then went to his
next day. Early the next mornin
prised to see the king not only
sweeping the floors of the pala

“Your Highness, what are
asked Glopa. King Portik explai
to Glopa what he had to do to
his kingdom.

Glopa then understood but f
sorry for his king. So Glopa de
by his king every step of the w
support. Every day Glopa sto

THE KING



ep from your kingdom in one year.
are to plant in one year.
harvest in one year.
ollect while visiting everyone in your kingdom.

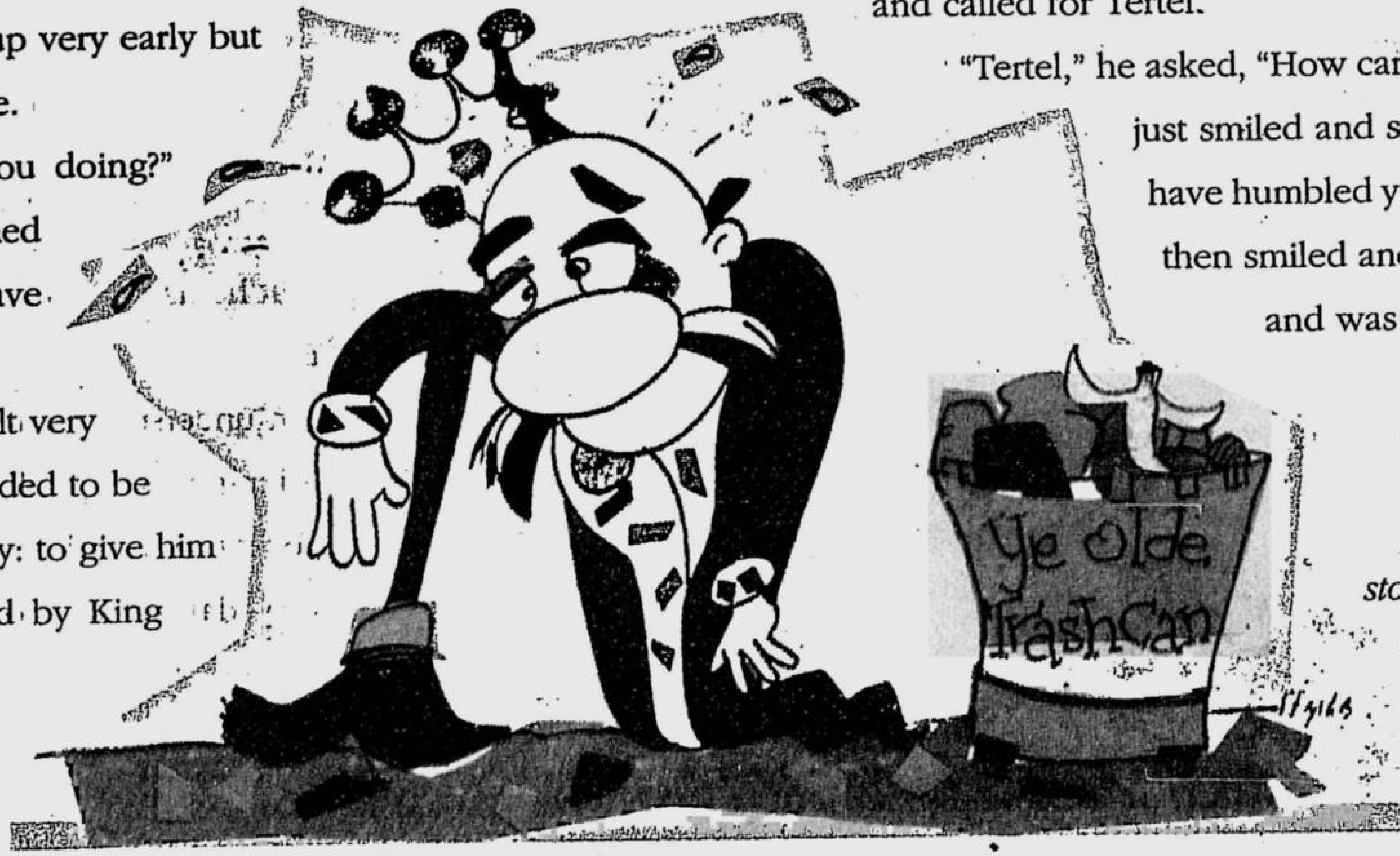
rtik said, "I can't do this! This is so hard!"
u feel that way your Highness but that is the only way

le then said, "All right, I will do my best!"
looked troubled said, "Your Highness I am willing to

k.
"Your Highness, remember NO ONE can help you
rtik just looked at both Tertel and Glopa and said,

room and decided to rest to prepare himself for the
g, Glopa was sur-
up very early but
ce.
you doing?"
ned
ave

elt very
ided to be
y: to give him
d by King



Portik. But Glopa could only watch his king as he swept, planted and harvested. Glopa also visited the townspeople with his king and he noticed with each passing day that his king seemed happier. As the days grew into weeks and the weeks into months, the townspeople seemed to change their minds about their king. They even started to help him in his work.

King Portik tried to stop them but they refused him. So King Portik got worried and called for Tertel.

"Tertel," he asked, "How can I make the townspeople stop helping me?" Tertel just smiled and said, "Your Majesty, don't you realize because you have humbled yourself, you have your kingdom back?" King Portik then smiled and ever since then he saw to it that he was not lazy and was friendlier to his people.

THE END

Martin, *12, lives in Pasay City and dedicates this story "to God, my Mom, my friends, Mr. Rap, and Erap."*
Steph *is the* I*NQUIRER's staff artist.*

Woof by Woof

Animal Lover of the Year, Nathania Yupangco, still loves pets even though she can no longer keep them

BY CHRISTINE C. RIVERO

THIS story will start a bit sad. One by one, 11-year-old Nathania Yupangco's pet dogs passed away. She still remembers their names—Wolfie, Godiva, Dexter and Deedee. "My favorite dog was Wolfie," she relates, "everytime I'd get home, he would run toward me and I'd hug him."

kids'r'rrific

"I didn't mind even if he had fleas," she adds, "because he was so cute and so caring."

When only two of their dogs were left alive, Tanya's family decided to take the dogs to their grandmother's house. An infection, they feared, might have been spreading to the dogs through their soil. They haven't kept a pet dog since.

By now, though, Tanya has accepted the death of her other pets. "I feel sad but I don't cry because I feel that it's their time to go," she explains, "I know that everything has to die sometime because my mother told me about it."

"So what we do," says Tanya, "is we share our love with them while they're still alive."

Pretend doggie and plant-chitchat

Happily, the two family dogs have recovered and are doing well at Tanya's grandmother's house. "When we visit, I call them and I make them run after me," she says brightly, "and sometimes I pretend that I'm becoming a dog also." What Tanya means is that she gets down on all fours as she and the dogs chase each other. Then, looking a little embarrassed, she says with a grin, "But when other people see me, I stand up and pat them instead."

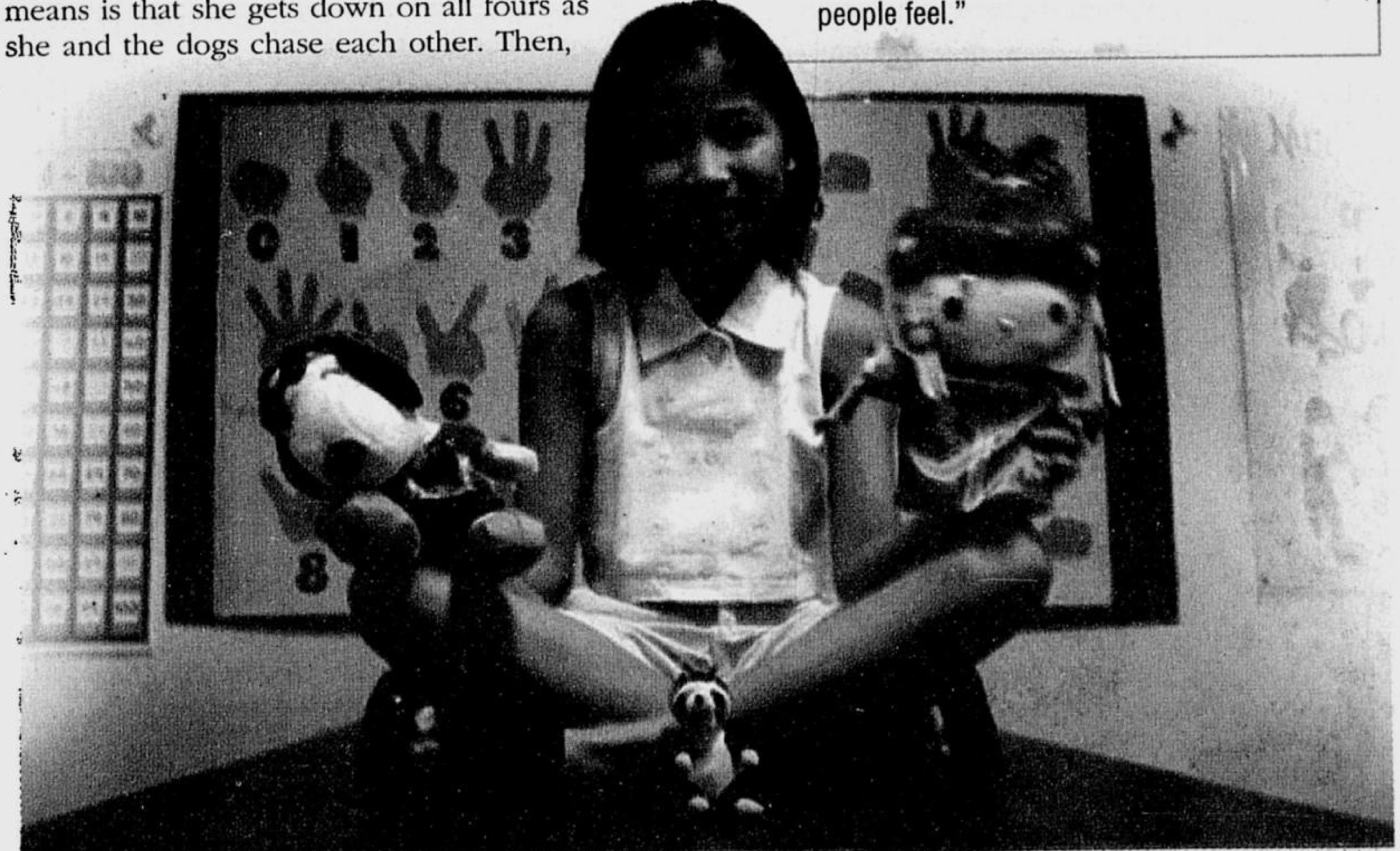
Since she doesn't have any pets to care for at home, Tanya helps her mom out in the garden. "I love plants. Every time I water them in the afternoon, I talk to them," she says. "My mother says I should talk to plants so that they will grow big and beautiful and they will bear lots of fruits and flowers. I just don't know if the plants understand me."

Tanya also loves reading "thick books" like "The Secret Garden" or stories about legendary heroes like Robin Hood and Sir Roland of the epic "Song of Roland." Every now and then she also draws—"I'm not that good at it so I keep practicing and practicing," she informs us. She also writes poems. "I write short poems," she says, about her family and animals. . .everything she holds dear.

Even though Tanya and her four-legged friends can't be together, they'll always mean a lot to her. She says, "So long as they receive the love that we give, we're happy."

Quote Me!

This is what Tanya has to say about people who don't like animals: "I listen to their opinions because everyone has different opinions. Deep inside I feel hurt but that's okay. At least I know how other people feel."



TANYA AND FRIENDS. Without pets to play with, Tanya collects animal toys.

EDWIN BACASMAS

R'U RRIFIC

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're `Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a **free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!**

Kids'r'rrific
nomination form

I nominate:

Age:

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

She/he lives at

and studies at

Her/his contact number is:

Sender's Name:

Sender's Age & School:

Sender's Address:

Sender's Contact No.

FAVE TEACHER. Teacher Marla poses with the student who nominated her, 8-year-old Hazel Urcia. MIKE ALQUINTO

Gotcha Sleepyhead!

Oh, no you don't. No one zones out in Teacher Marla's class

BY CHRISTINE C. RIVERO
PHOTO BY EDWIN BACASMAS

TURNING from the blackboard, Teacher Marla's keen eyes spot two or three heads bobbing forward in the back row. Another student is rubbing his eyes; he is trying hard not to yawn. From somewhere in the middle of the classroom, a low buzz has also built up as chatty pupils talk about anything except the lesson.

"Our lesson is about money," Teacher Marla begins and, suddenly, starts, singing, "*Meron akong pera, nakatago sa pitaka. . .*" The song sounds a lot like the Filipino folk tune, "Leron Leron Sinta" and the students, yanked happily from zone-out land, are already raring to join in.

Wild 'n Wacky Lesson

"After 15 minutes of straight talking, the students are already bored," notes Teacher Marla.

Mrs. Marla Gammad teaches the Grade 2-Saphire class at Our Lord's Grace Montessori in Quezon City. In the eight years she's been at OLGM, she has always taught Grades 1 to 3. Over that period, she has found different ways to make sure her students' attention stays glued to the lesson.

"When I see that they are no longer interested, I make them do some stretches," says Teacher Marla, "after an hour of each lesson, we also have games." The students' favorite game, she informs us, is the stop-dance. "I sing a song and when I stop, I point out the funniest poses," she chuckles.

Teacher Marla also cracks jokes or makes up songs that help the kids better appreciate the lesson. "Are you beautiful?" she asks her class during a lesson in Sibika. They are discussing the most beautiful places in the Philippines. In response, the students go nuts raising their hands and teasing each other at the same time.

The soft approach

Of course, all that fun sometimes makes the class a little too rowdy. That's when Teacher Marla tells them, "Okay children, if you don't listen, I will not repeat my words."

Her voice is firm without yelling. Smiling, she explains, "I found out that instead of shouting at them, it is better to talk to them in a soft voice. That way, they will be forced to listen."

Sure enough, the students are once more well-behaved and listening. The only time they go wild again is when Teacher Marla announces, "Class dismissed!"

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

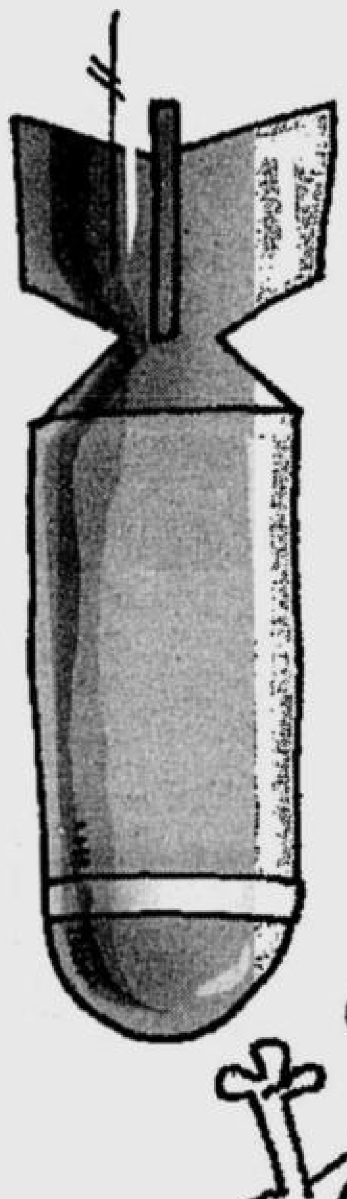
I nominate ______________
He/She is _____ years old and is
my ______________
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1) ______________
2) ______________
3) ______________
4) ______________
and
5) ______________

My nominee lives at ______________
____
Give him/her a call at ______________
______________ or send him/her an e-mail
at ______________
By the way, I'm ______________
____
I'm _____ years old.
My address is
____
You may call me at
____

¿ThinkathoN?
BY BONG BARRAMEDA

Are You a Whiz Kid? –Part 1

HERE'S a first serving of the questions asked in the 1st Grand Finals of the "Digital LG Quiz" (Saturdays, 10:30-11:30 AM, on GMA-7) won by Brian Lagason of the Regional Science High School of Olongapo City. Can you match Brian's brain?



1. **History**

What was the code name of the test explosion of the world's first atomic bomb on July 16, 1945 at Alamogordo, New Mexico?

2. **Pop Culture**

You better believe it, more than any other man, what adventurer and artist has shown the world that truth can indeed be stranger than fiction?

3. **Science**

Which French psychologist developed the world's first standard intelligence test in 1905?

4. **Sports**

According to Bobby Fischer and many other chess experts, which enigmatic and tragic American genius was the greatest chess player of all time?

5. **Art**

A mother of 10, she began to paint in her 70's and continued to create masterpieces even after her 100th birthday. Who was she?

6. **Quotations**

At age 82, which King of Tonga is the world's oldest reigning monarch and was once the heaviest in history?

7. **Mythology**

In Greek mythology, who is the goddess of memory and mother of the Muses?

8. **Computer Science**

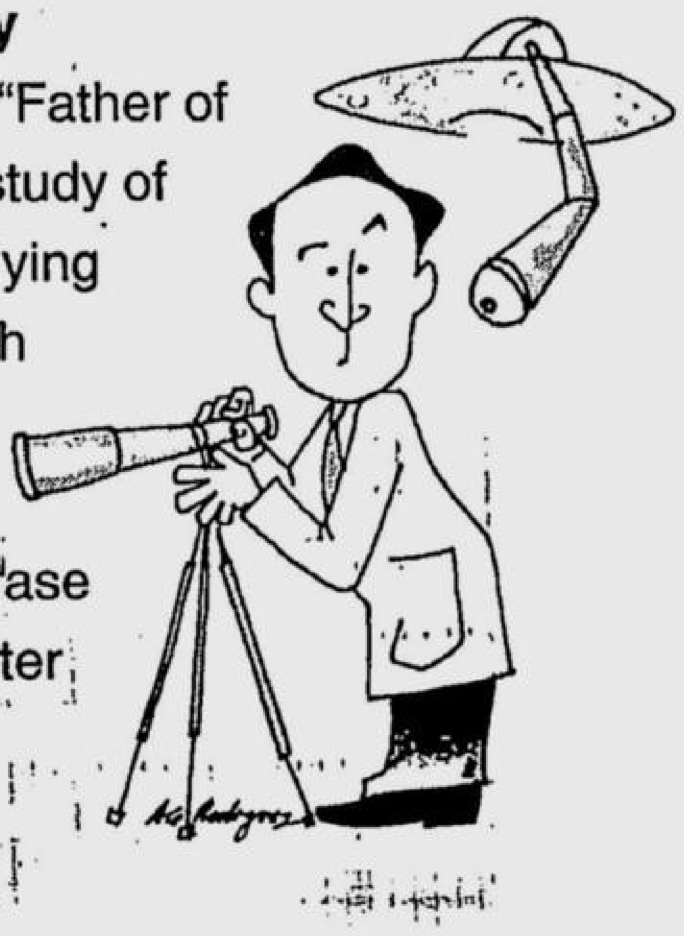
What revolutionary Internet-based concept was developed by British physicist and computer scientist Tim Berners-Lee in 1989?

9. **Awards**

Of the six Nobel Prizes, what was the last to be created?

10. **Entertainment**

Name the star of "The Jazz Singer"—the 1927 film that made history by being the first to make use of sound—who uttered the immortal line, "You ain't heard nothing yet."



11. **Astronomy**

Known as the "Father of Ufology" (the study of Unidentified Flying Objects), which American astronomer coined the phrase "close encounter of the third kind"?

12. **Philosophy**

Which German philosopher, whose most famous work is "Critique of Pure Reason," proposed a federation of the world's countries in the late 18th century, a radical idea that eventually led to the creation of the League of Nations and later the United Nations?

Answers:

1. Trinity
2. Robert Ripley (creator of the cartoon strip "Believe It or Not" in 1918)
3. Alfred Binet
4. Paul Morphy
5. Grandma Moses (real name: Anna Mary Robertson)
6. Taufa'ahau (Tupou IV)
7. Mnemosyne
8. World Wide Web
9. Economics
10. Al Jolson
11. J. Allen Hynek
12. Immanuel Kant

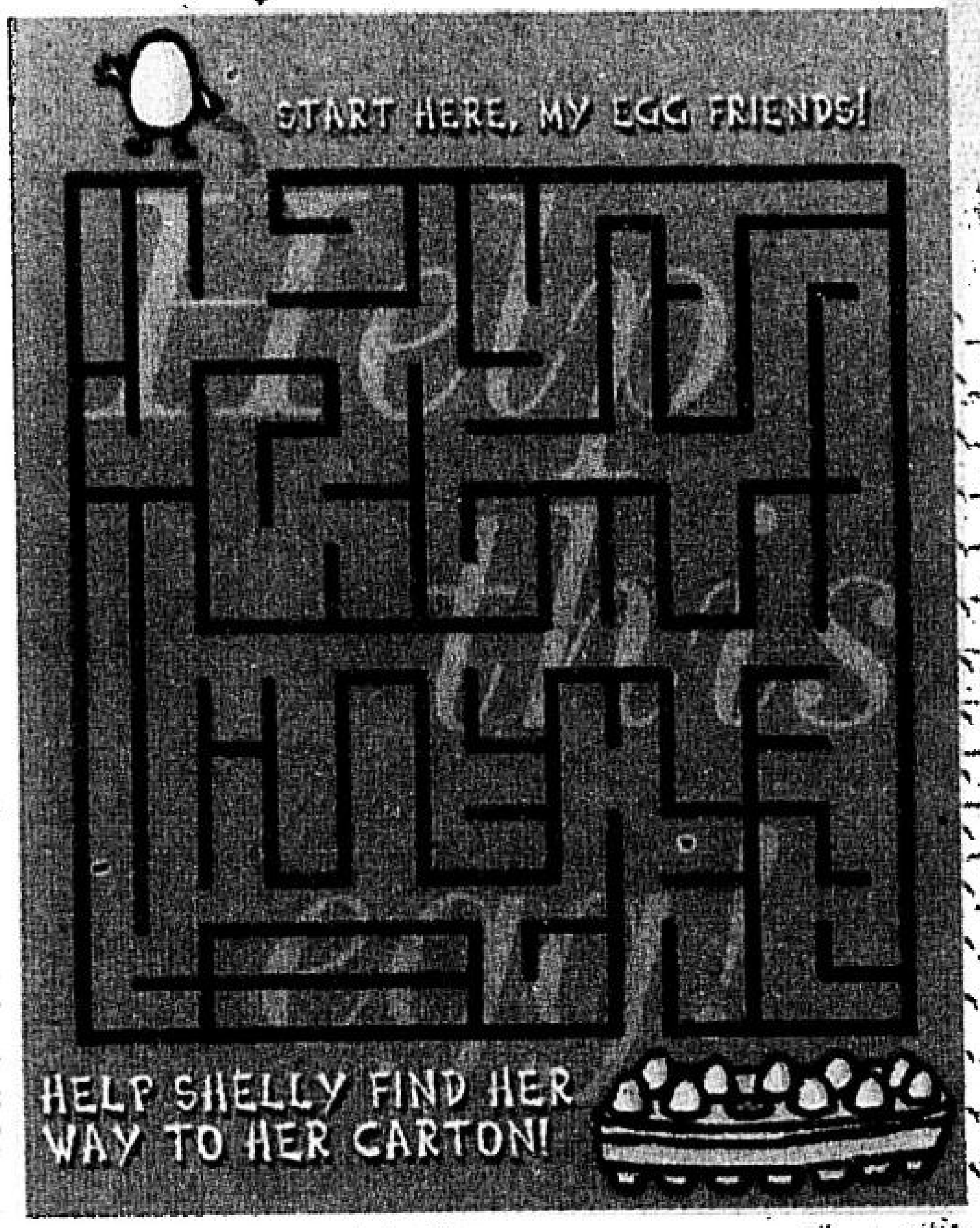
RATINGS :

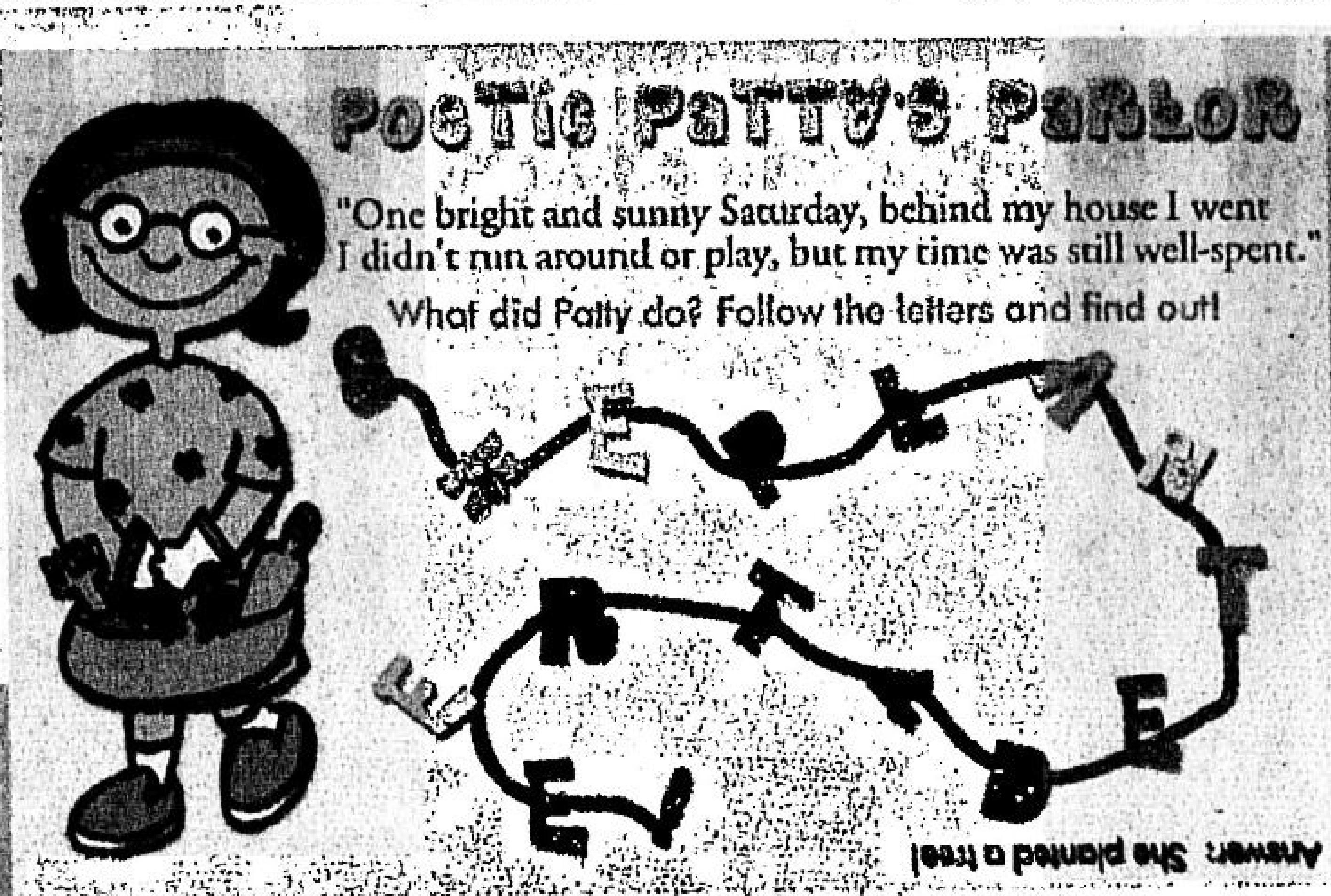
11 - 12 9 - 10 6 - 8

superbrain!
excellent!
good!

THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa


START HERE, MY EGG FRIENDS!
HELP SHELLY FIND HER WAY TO HER CARTON!

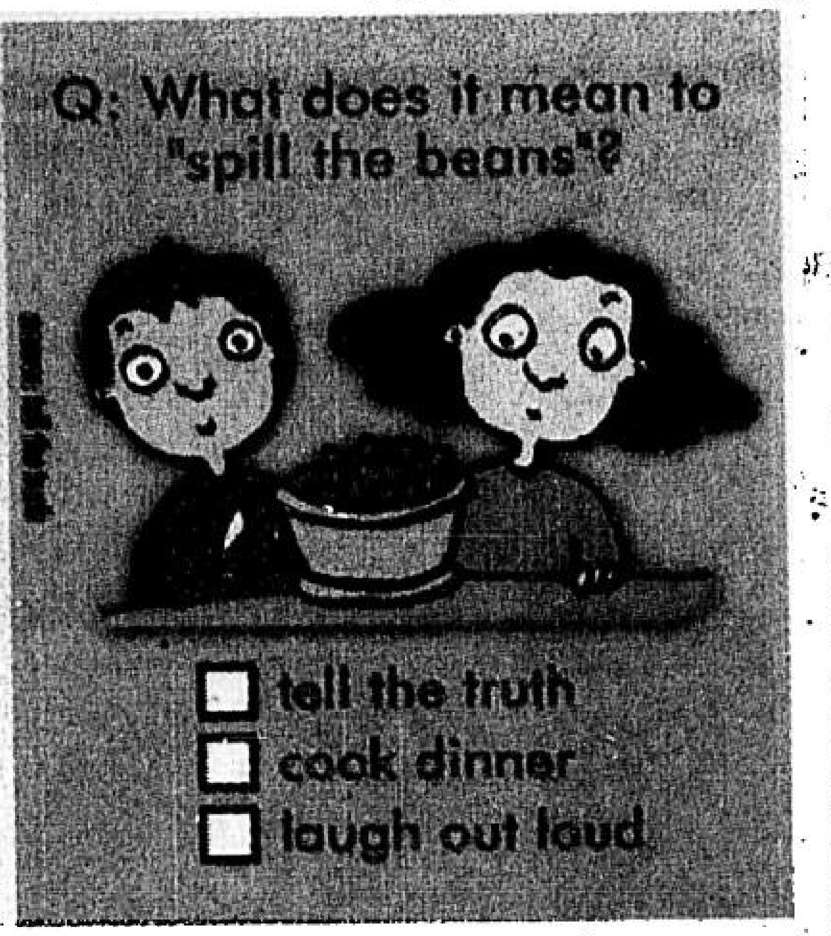


PoeTic PaTTy's PaRLoR

"One bright and sunny Saturday, behind my house I went
I didn't run around or play, but my time was still well-spent."

What did Patty do? Follow the letters and find out!

Answer: She planted a tree!



Q: What does it mean to "spill the beans"?

☐ tell the truth
☐ cook dinner
☐ laugh out loud

NOY'S NOTEBOOK

In our country, January is a month of FIESTAS! Every celebration that takes place helps to remind us that our culture is rich and quite special! Use the key to break the codes below and discover the names of some Filipino fiestas in January. Oh, and let the clues help you figure them out!

7	22	24	6	18	26	12	17	1	16	13	5	4	14	19	2	8	20	3	23	9	11	10	25	21	15
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

1. 22 5 7 24 13 14 7 15 7 20 18 14 18
On the 2nd Tuesday of January, the statue of the Black Christ is carried outside the church in Quiapo.

2. 7 23 1 7 23 1 17 7 14
This takes place in Kalibo, Aklan in Panay. This fiesta commemorates the legendary sale of Panay island by the Atis to some datus from Borneo. Participants blacken their faces and wear really nice costumes.

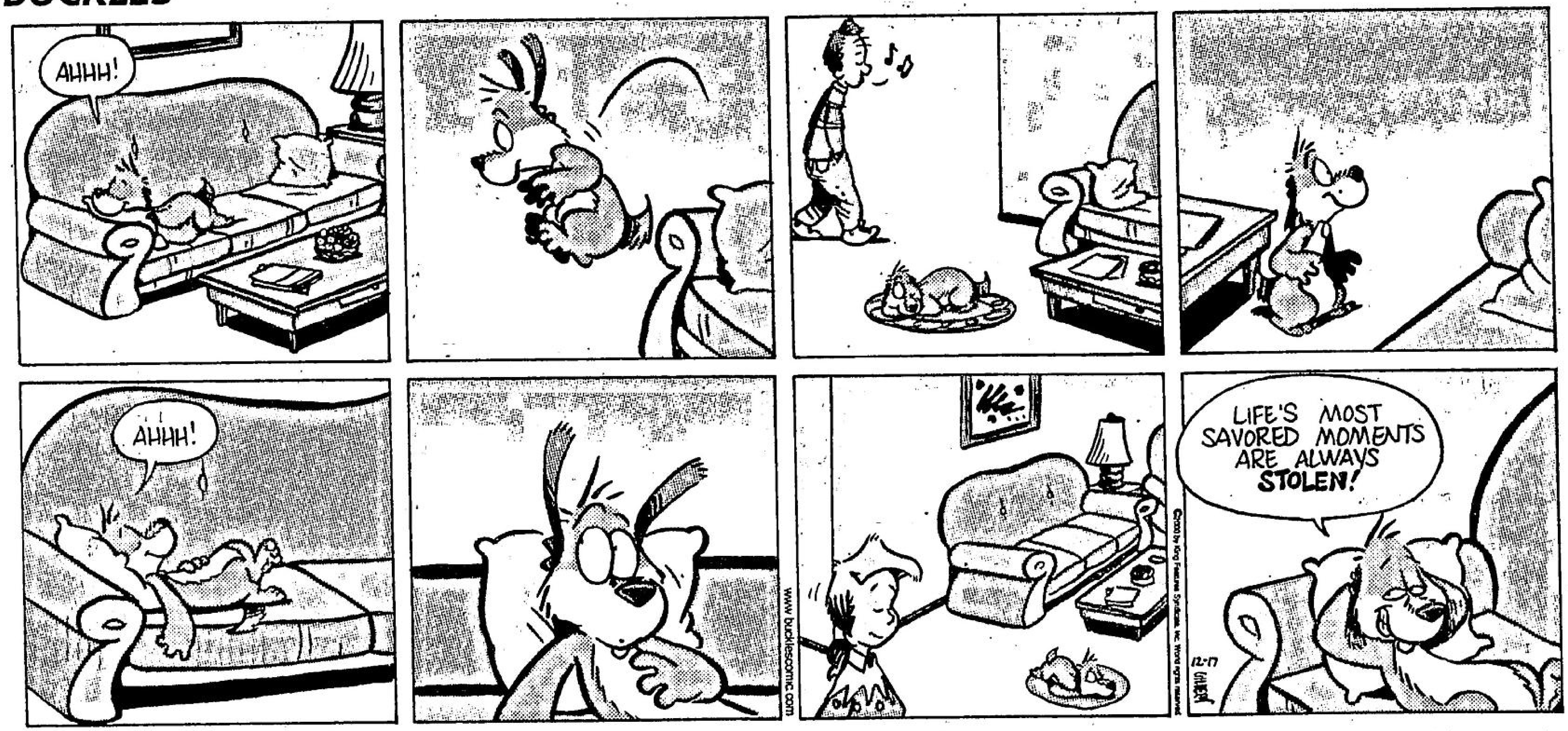
3. 3 1 14 9 5 19 12
resembles the Aklan festival, but takes place in Cebu on the 3rd week of January. It is in honour of the Santo Niño.

4. 6 1 14 7 12 21 7 14 12
happens in the 4th week of January in Iloilo. Lots of parades take place, and people come in costumes, too.

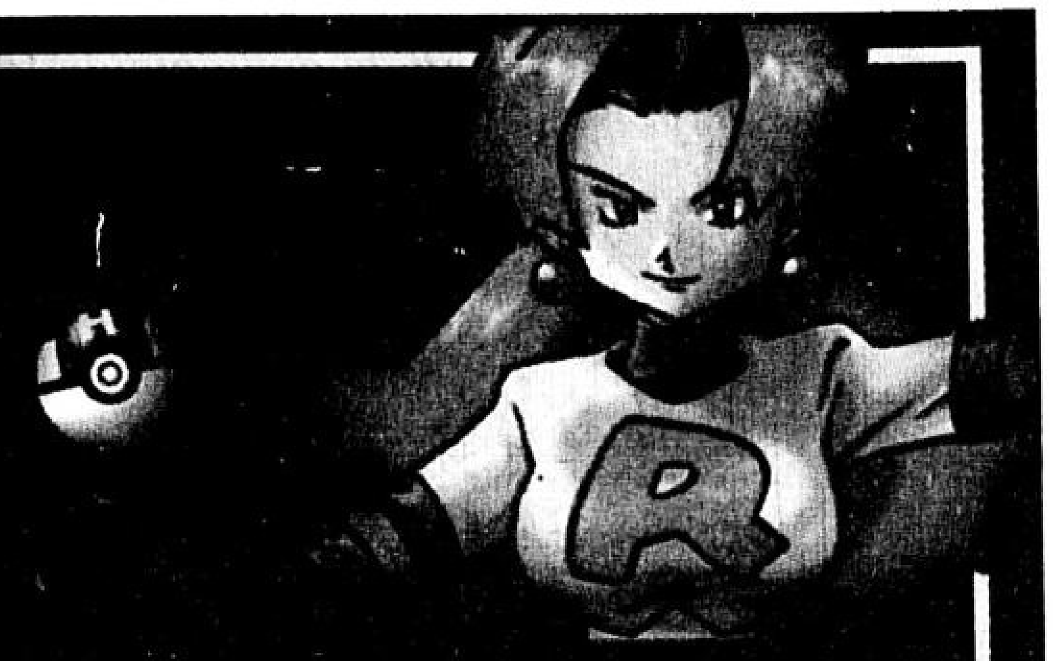
Answers: 1. Black Nazarene 2. Ati-Atihan 3. Sinulog 4. Dinagyang

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


AHHH!
AHHH!
LIFE'S MOST SAVORED MOMENTS ARE ALWAYS STOLEN!
www.bucklescomic.com
12-17 GILBERT

Welcome the Year of the Snake with a Big Bang!



Dark Arbok
60 HP
10

To all Pokémon fanatics, kick off Year 2001 by getting your Dark Arbok Card with a WOTC stamp and sealed in a special "ampao" red envelope in celebration of the Chinese New Year. Here are some exciting ways to get hold of your very own WOTC stamped Dark Arbok card;

All League members can get a WOTC stamped Dark Arbok card (maximum of 2) for just showing up at their League Centers..... "not bad for a new year start !"

If you purchase a Preconstructed Theme Deck from Base set 1, Jungle or Fossil you can get a WOTC stamped Dark Arbok card for free!

Hurry.... this promotional offer is good only until supply last!

TEAM Rocket™

Pokémon Trading Card Game League

For more details call the Pokémon Hotline 732-7884

Season 3 now on-going......

The Pokémon Trading Card Game is back in to action and the start of Season 3 brings our Pokémon fanatics to Safron City. To all League members, check out your League Centers, as follows;

EVERY SATURDAY
- Comic Quest Megamall (1pm to 4pm)
- Hungry Jake's Diliman (2pm to 4pm)
- Nachofast Galleria (2pm to 4pm)
- Nachofast Shangri-la (2pm to 4pm)
- Nachofast Festival Supermall (2pm to 4pm)
- Characters Unlimited, Festival Supermall (2pm to 4pm)
- Streetlife Glorietta c/o Pocket Collector (2pm to 4pm)
- Dragon's Lair, Pampanga (1pm to 4pm)
- Gaisano Cagayan (2pm to 4pm)
- Toys Will Be Toys Robinsons Mla. (2pm to 4pm)

EVERY SUNDAY
- Toytown Glorietta Makati (2pm to 4pm)
- Toytown Festival Mall, Alabang (2pm to 4pm)
- Pocket Collector Alabang Town Center (2pm to 4pm)
- Don Henrico's Sta. Lucia Mall, Marikina c/o Pocket Collector (2pm to 4pm)
- Club Arena Annapolis Green Hills (1pmto 4pm)
- Comic Quest SM North Edsa (2pm to 4pm)
- Characters Unlimited Tutuban (2pm to 4pm)

EVERY WEDNESDAY
- Club Arena Annapolis Green Hills (3pm to 4pm)